

R. GOSCINNY **Asterix** A. UDERZO

Asterix and CLEOPATRA

Written by René GOSCINNY

Illustrated by Albert UDERZO



GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

PRESENT

An Asterix Adventure

ASTERIX AND CLEOPATRA

Written by RENÉ GOSCINNY *and Illustrated by* ALBERT UDERZO

Translated by Anthea Bell *and* Derek Hockridge



*This new edition
is dedicated to René Goscinny
who left us 25 years ago.*

January 2002

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THE YEAR IS 50 BC. GAUL IS ENTIRELY OCCUPIED BY THE ROMANS. WELL, NOT ENTIRELY ... ONE SMALL VILLAGE OF INDOMITABLE GAULS STILL HOLDS OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS. AND LIFE IS NOT EASY FOR THE ROMAN LEGIONARIES WHO GARRISON THE FORTIFIED CAMPS OF TOTORUM, AQUARIUM, LAUDANUM AND COMPENDIUM ...



ASTERIX, THE HERO OF THESE ADVENTURES. A SHREWD, CUNNING LITTLE WARRIOR, ALL PERILOUS MISSIONS ARE IMMEDIATELY ENTRUSTED TO HIM. ASTERIX GETS HIS SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH FROM THE MAGIC POTION BREWED BY THE DRUID GETAFIX . . .



OBELIX, ASTERIX'S INSEPARABLE FRIEND. A MENHIR DELIVERY MAN BY TRADE, ADDICTED TO WILD BOAR. OBELIX IS ALWAYS READY TO DROP EVERYTHING AND GO OFF ON A NEW ADVENTURE WITH ASTERIX - SO LONG AS THERE'S WILD BOAR TO EAT, AND PLENTY OF FIGHTING. HIS CONSTANT COMPANION IS DOGMATIX, THE ONLY KNOWN CANINE ECOLOGIST, WHO HOWLS WITH DESPAIR WHEN A TREE IS CUT DOWN.



GETAFIX, THE VENERABLE VILLAGE DRUID, GATHERS MISTLETOE AND BREWS MAGIC POTIONS. HIS SPECIALITY IS THE POTION WHICH GIVES THE DRINKER SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH. BUT GETAFIX ALSO HAS OTHER RECIPES UP HIS SLEEVE . . .

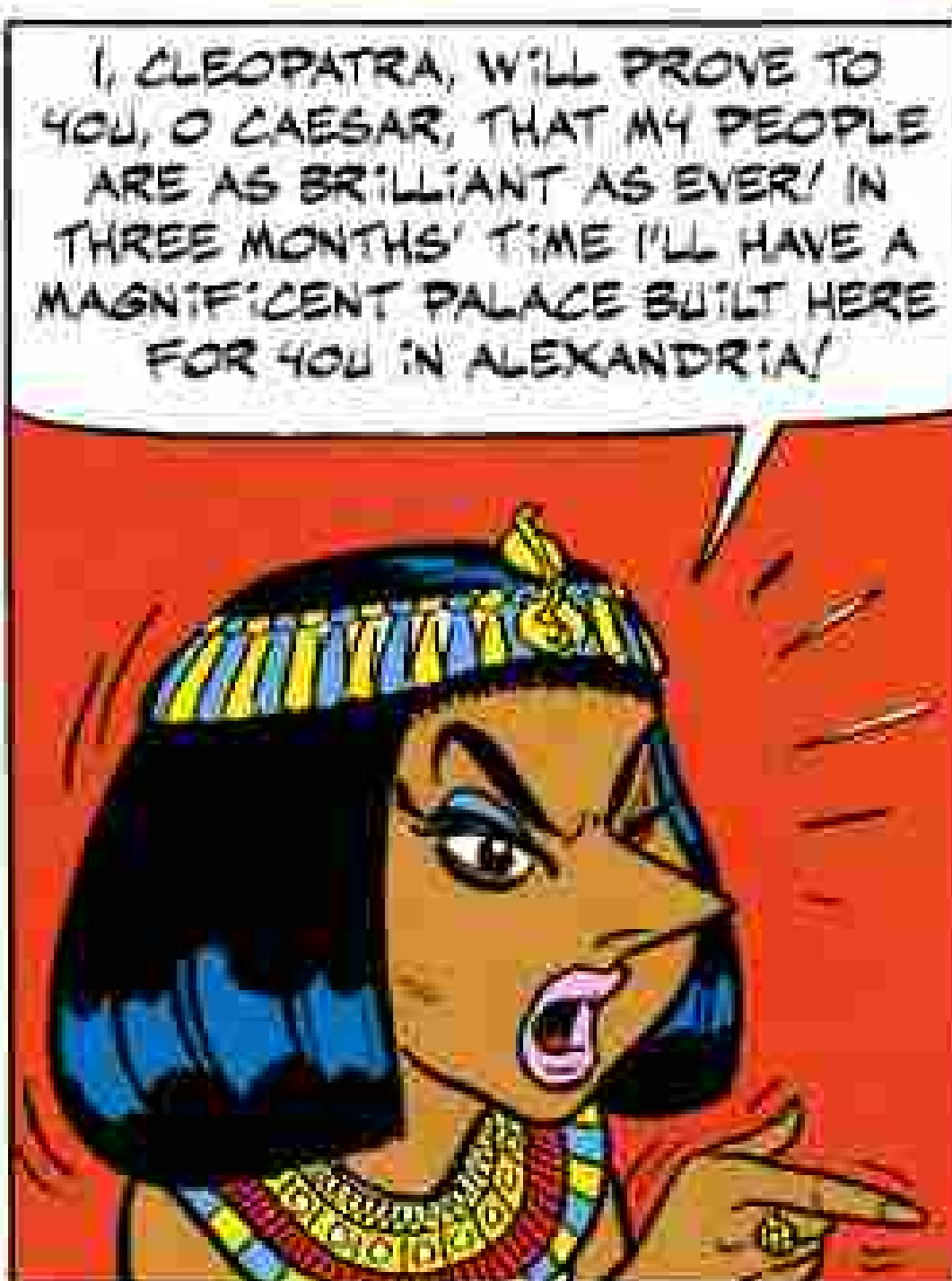


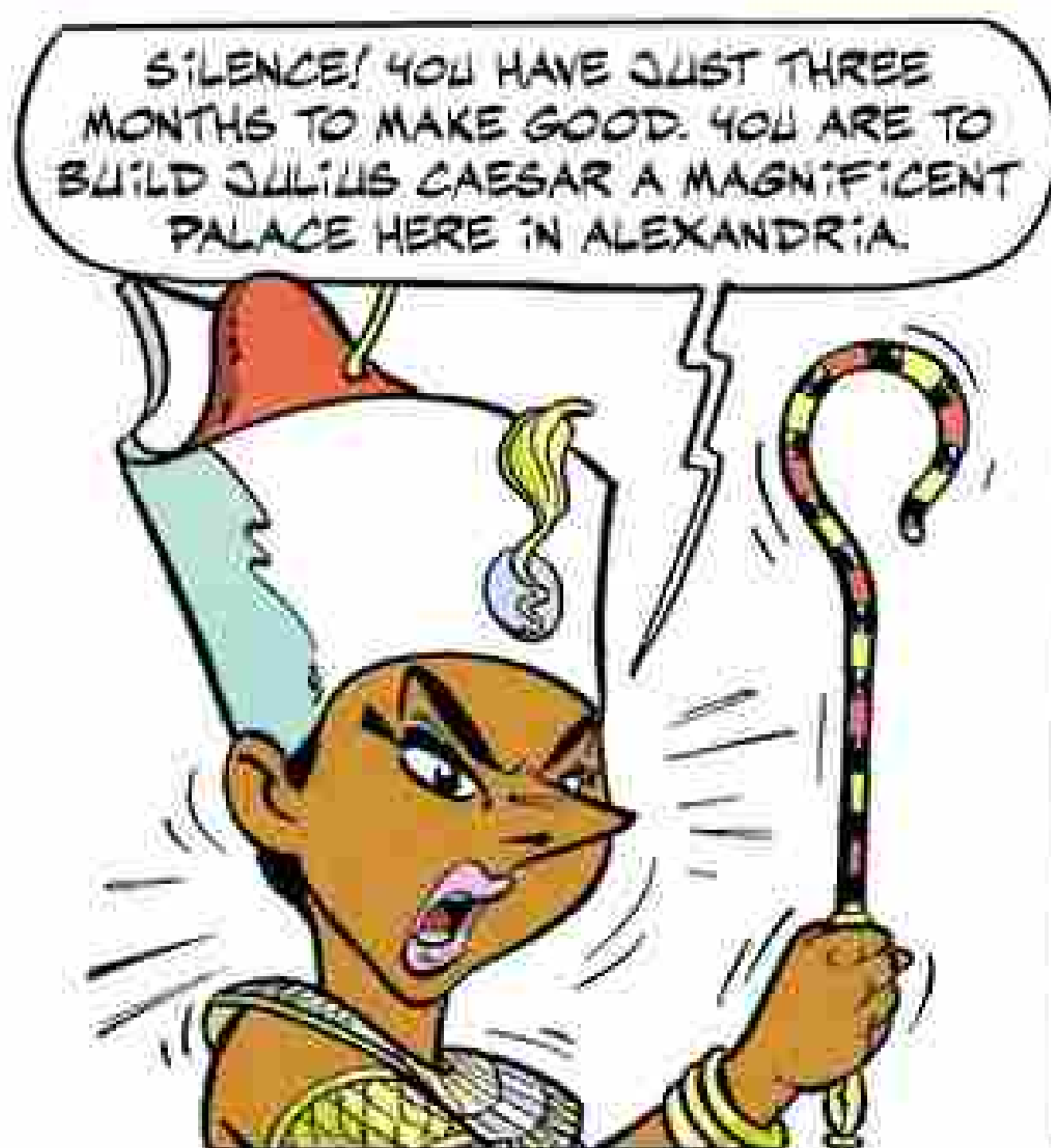
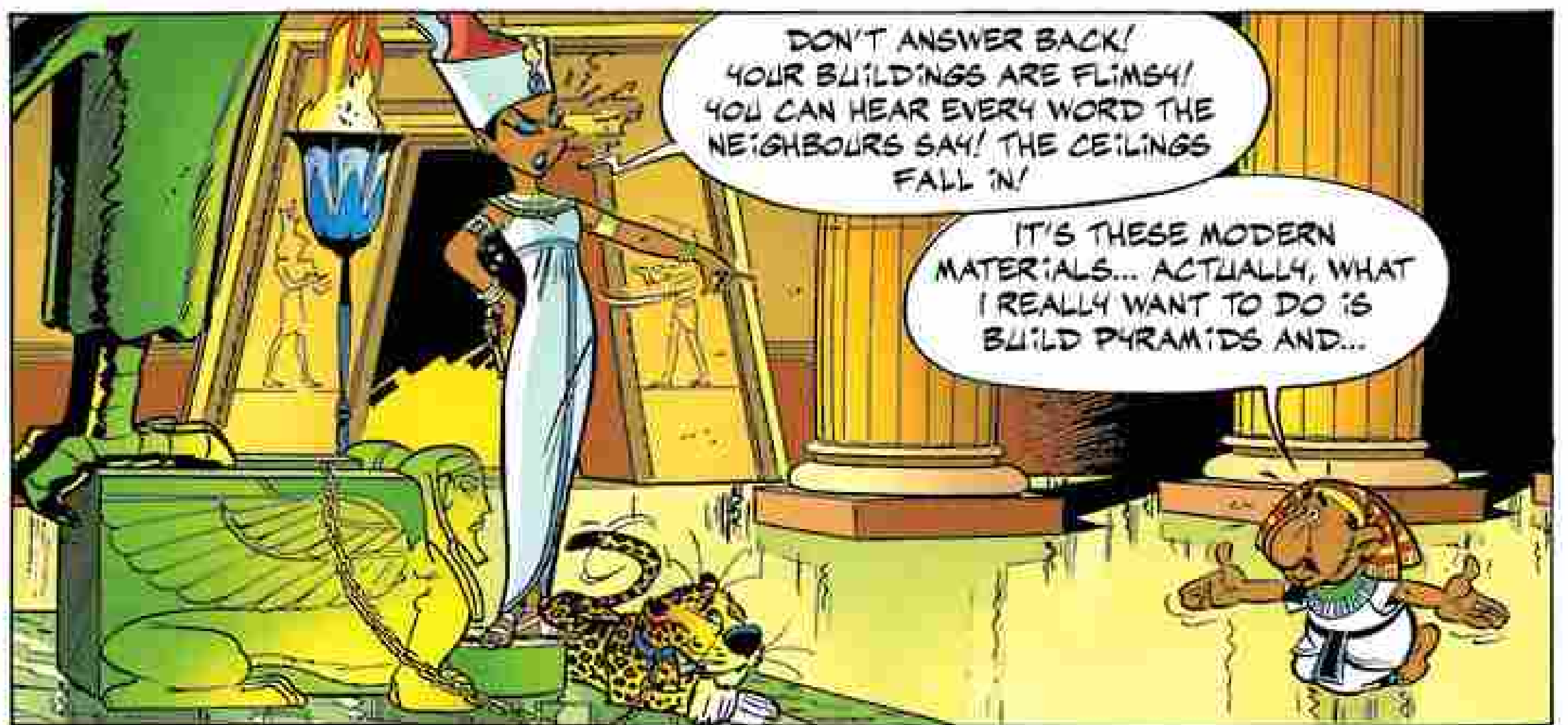
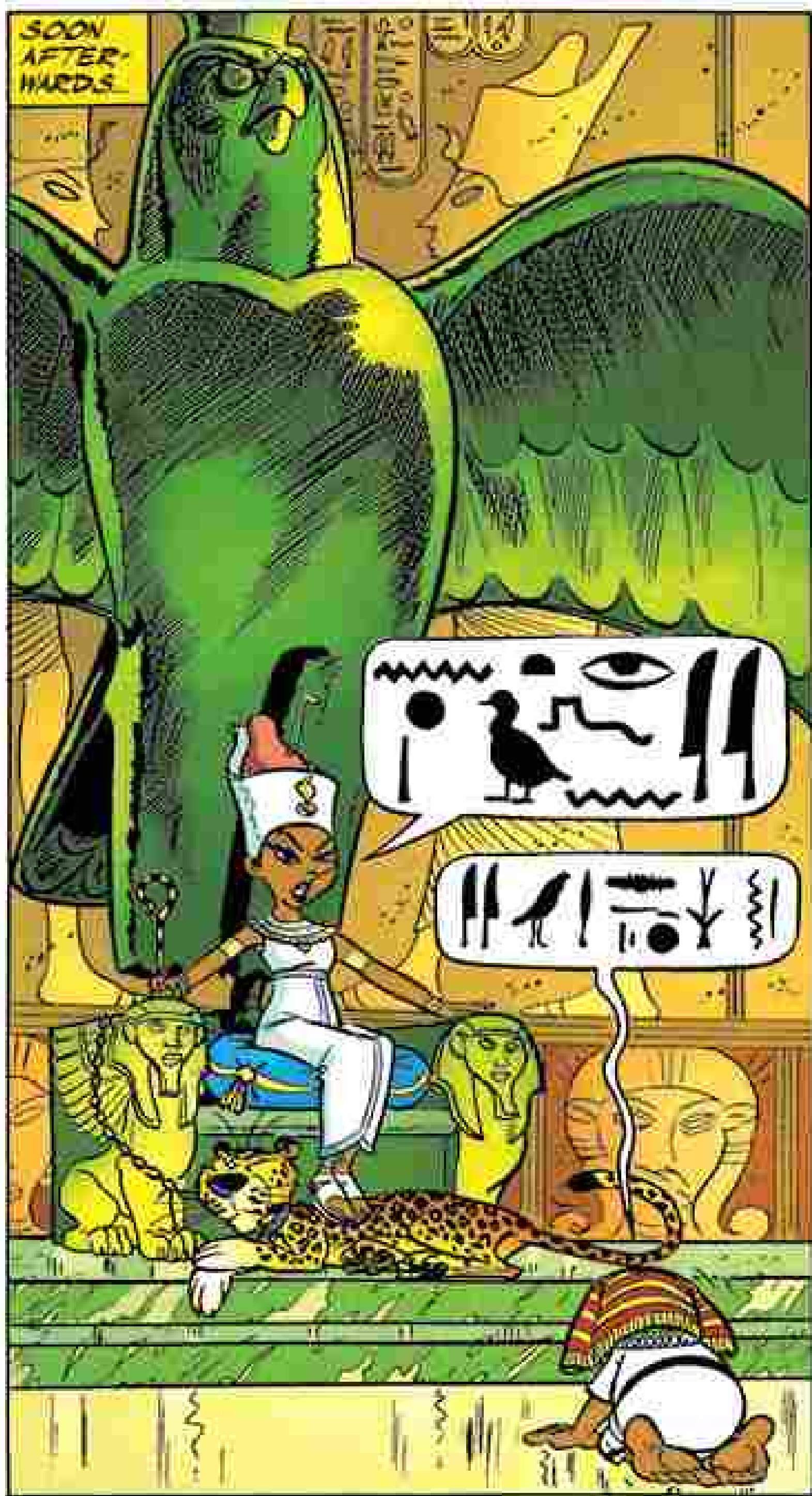
CACOFONIX, THE BARD. OPINION IS DIVIDED AS TO HIS MUSICAL GIFTS. CACOFONIX THINKS HE'S A GENIUS. EVERYONE ELSE THINKS HE'S UNSPEAKABLE. BUT SO LONG AS HE DOESN'T SPEAK, LET ALONE SING, EVERYBODY LIKES HIM . . .

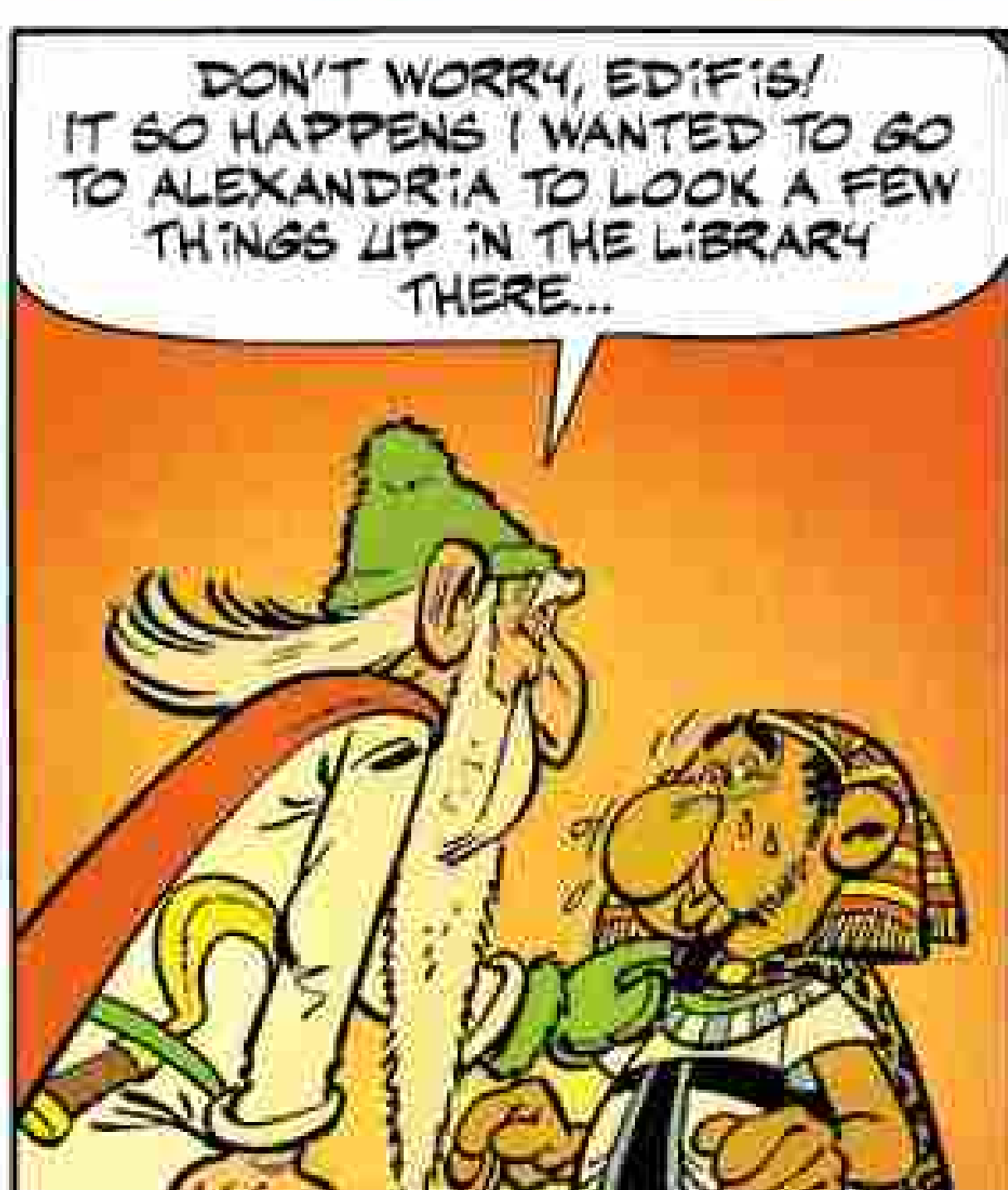
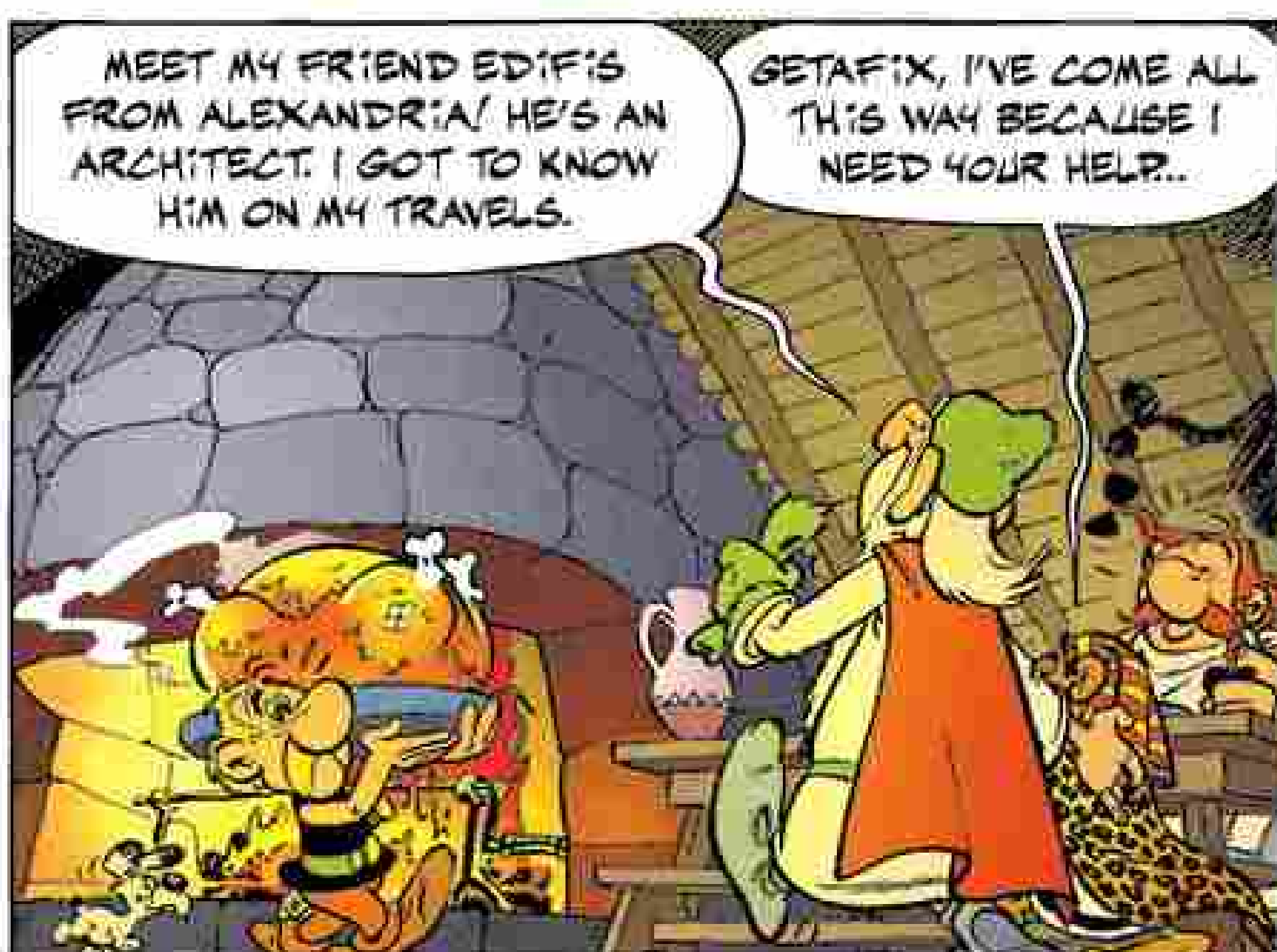


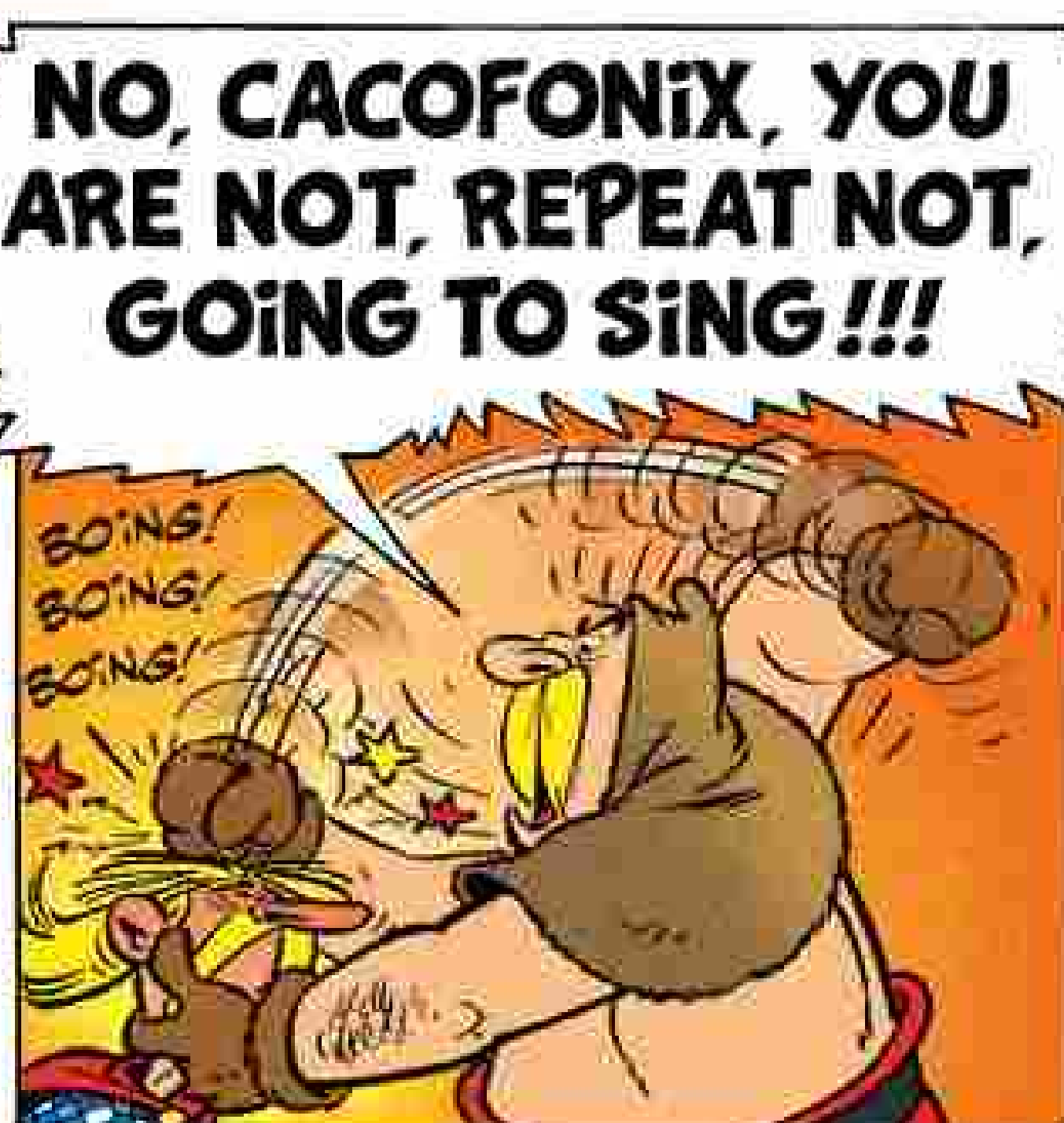
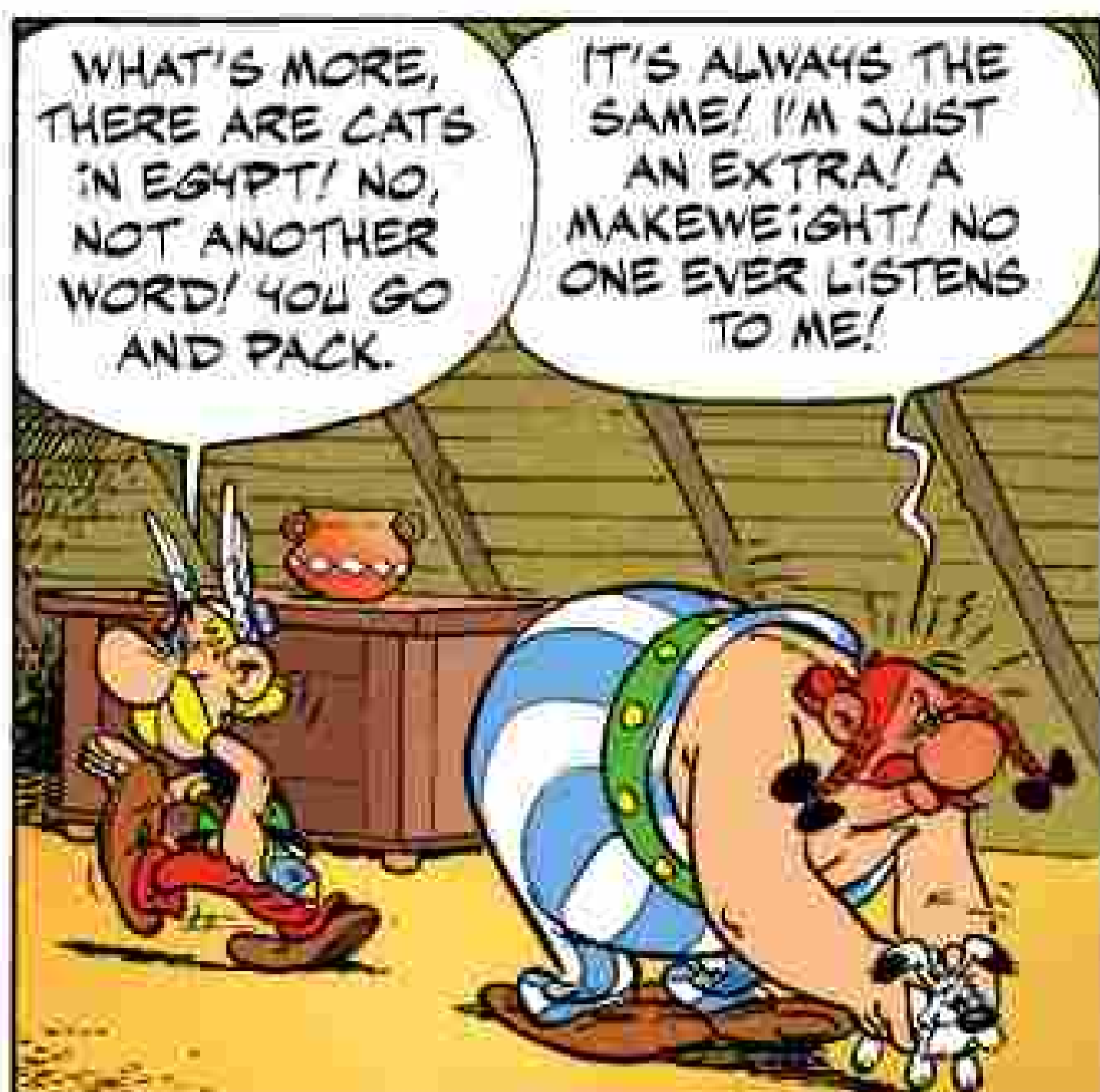
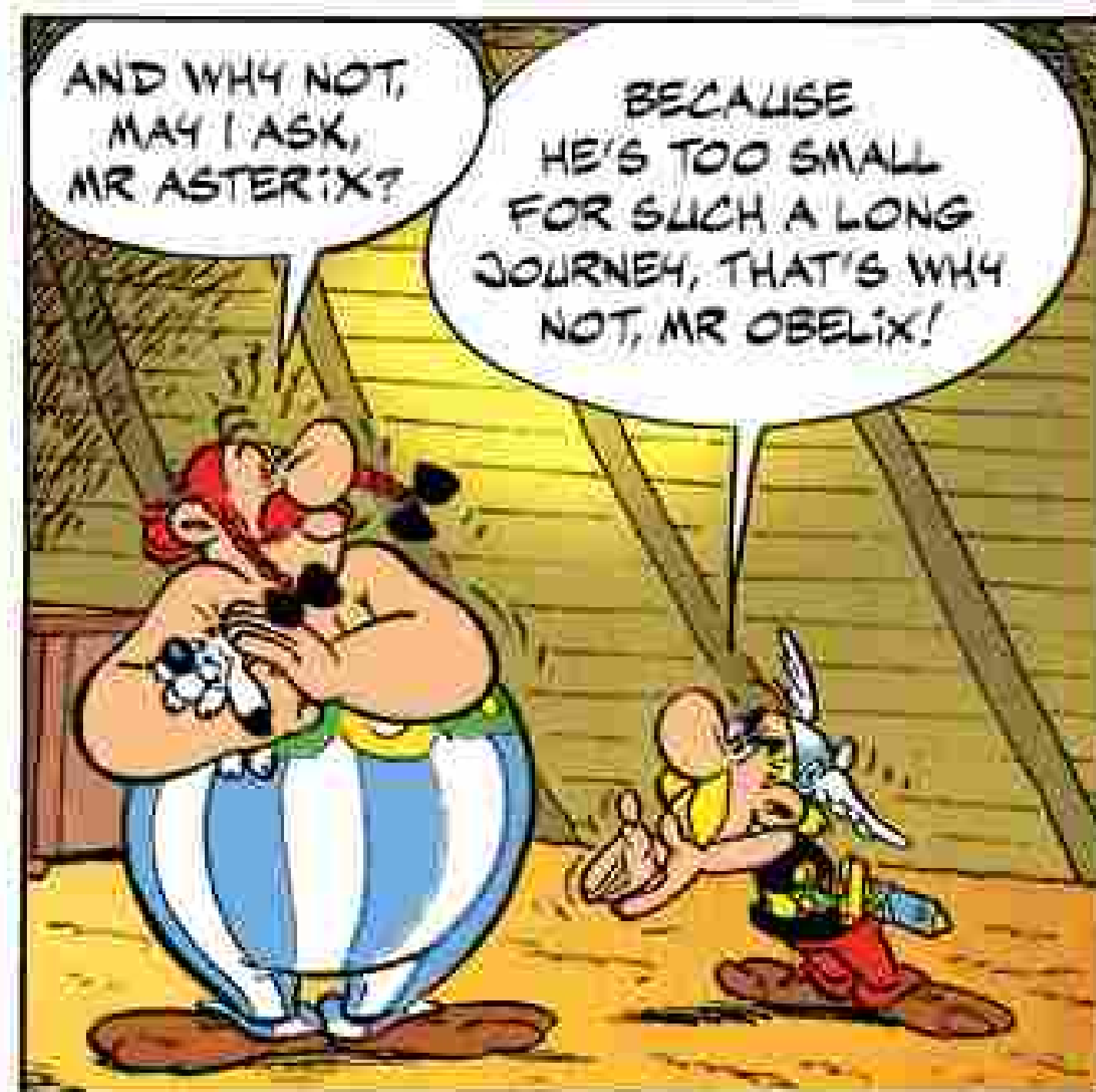
FINALLY, VITALSTATISTIX, THE CHIEF OF THE TRIBE. MAJESTIC, BRAVE AND HOT-TEMPERED, THE OLD WARRIOR IS RESPECTED BY HIS MEN AND FEARED BY HIS ENEMIES. VITALSTATISTIX HIMSELF HAS ONLY ONE FEAR, HE IS AFRAID THE SKY MAY FALL ON HIS HEAD TOMORROW. BUT AS HE ALWAYS SAYS, TOMORROW NEVER COMES.

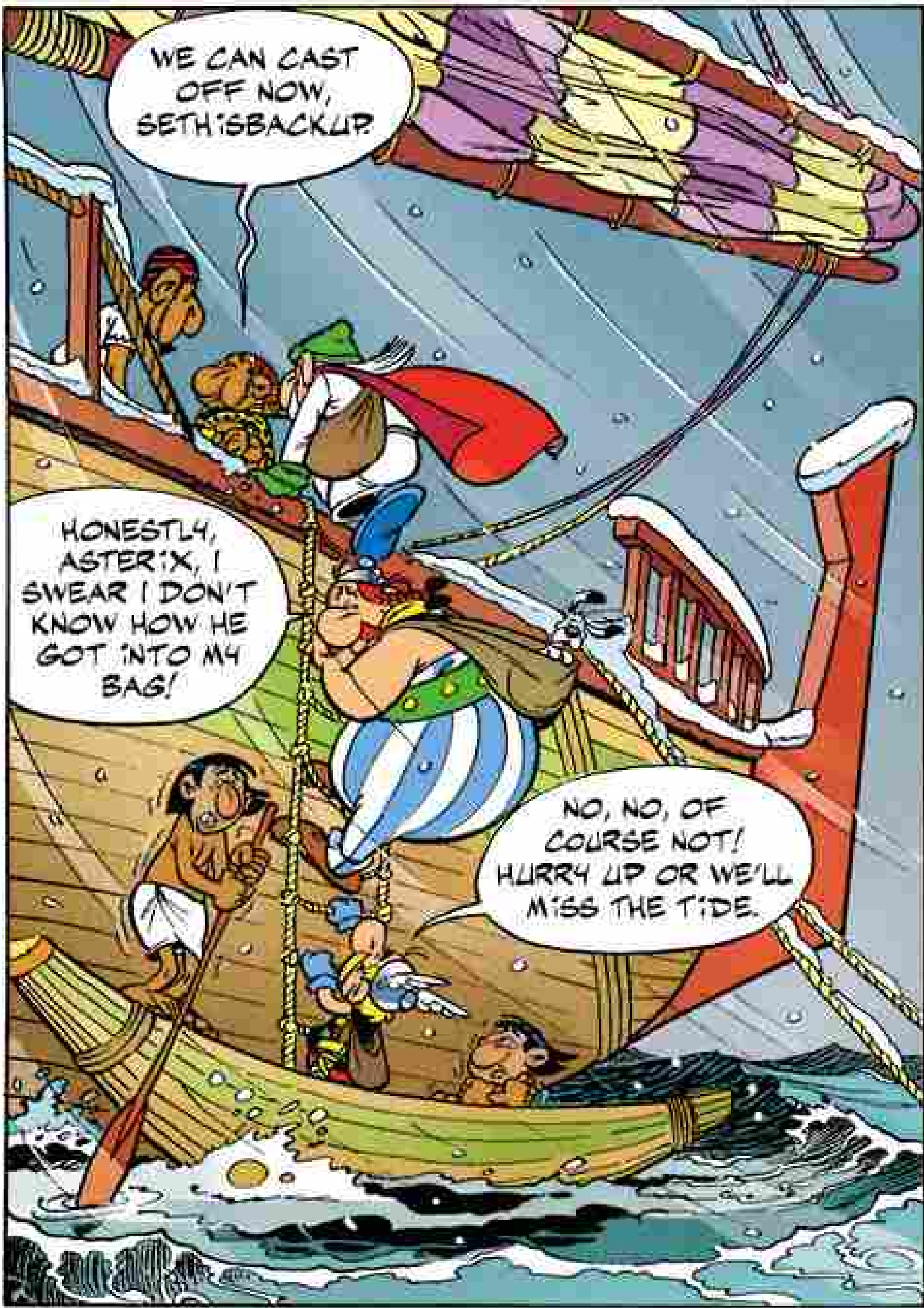
ALEXANDRIA, CAPITAL OF EGYPT: THE PALACE OF THE FABULOUS QUEEN CLEOPATRA, OF WHOM IT WAS SAID THAT IF HER NOSE HAD BEEN SHORTER IT WOULD HAVE CHANGED THE WHOLE COURSE OF HISTORY.











WE CAN CAST OFF NOW, SETH'S BACKUP.

HONESTLY, ASTERIX, I SWEAR I DON'T KNOW HOW HE GOT INTO MY BAG!

NO, NO, OF COURSE NOT! HURRY UP OR WE'LL MISS THE TIDE.



AND WITH AN ICH WINTER WIND BEHIND THEM, OUR FRIENDS SET SAIL ON THEIR LONG VOYAGE TO EGYPT AND THE FABULOUS CLEOPATRA.



IN EGYPT WE SHALL HAVE TO CONTEND WITH LABOUR TROUBLES, THE TIME FACTOR, THE ROMANS, WHO WON'T WANT US TO WIN CLEOPATRA'S BET...



AND ABOVE ALL WITH ARTIFIS, A RIVAL ARCHITECT. HE'S ALWAYS GOT IT IN FOR ME. HE HAS A LOT OF TALENTS...

CLEVER, IS HE?



NO, RICH. HE HAS A LOT OF GOLD TALENTS - THAT'S THE MONEY WE USE IN EGYPT.



AND THEN THERE'S ALWAYS THE DANGER OF PIRATES ON THE WAY.

OH, WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT! RIGHT, OBELIX?



SURE ENOUGH, NOT FAR AWAY.

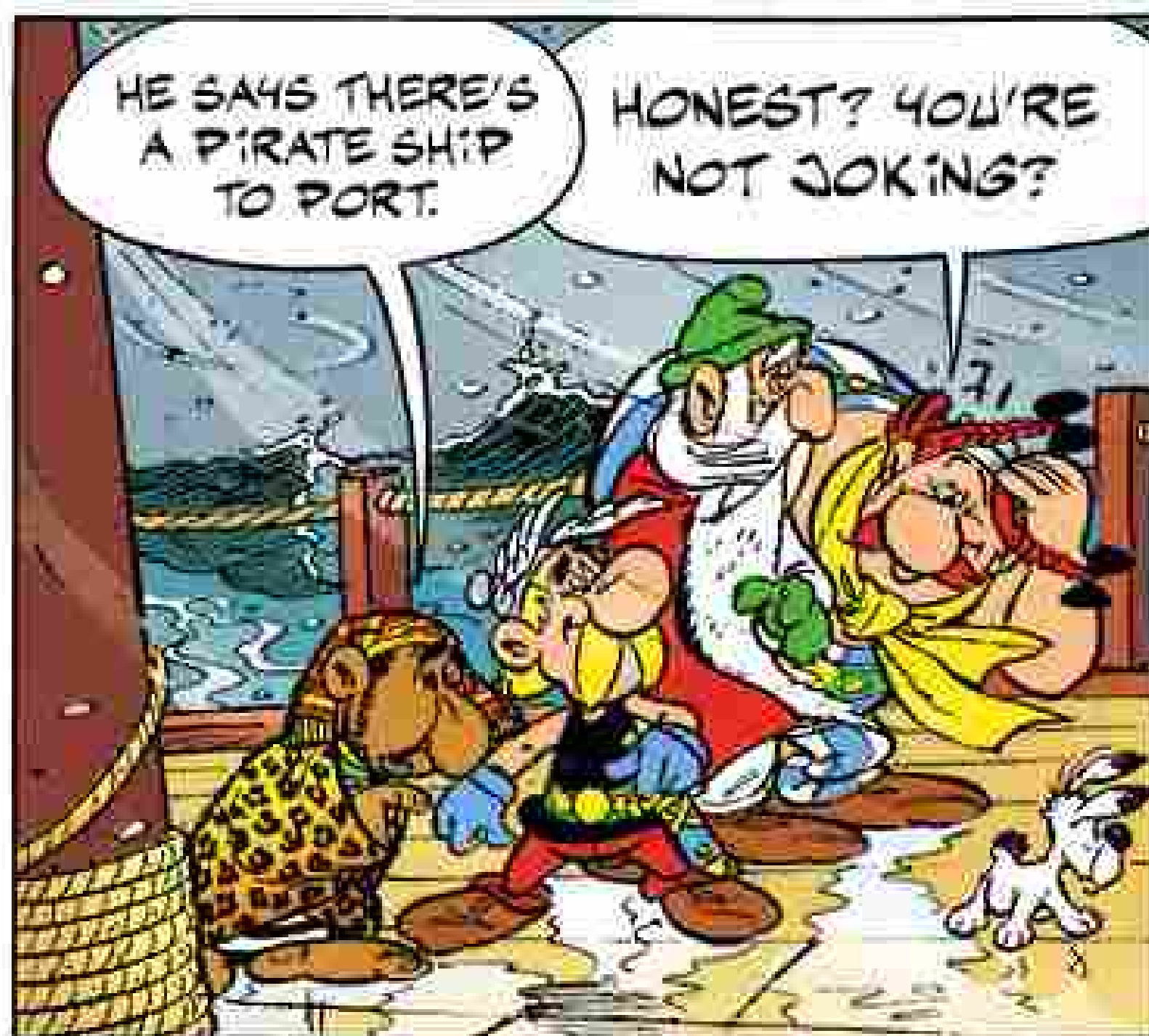
RIGHT, BOYS! WE'RE STEERING CLEAR OF ALL GAULS THIS TIME! AVOID ROMAN AND PHOENICIAN VESSELS TOO - THEY SOMETIMES USE THOSE. I'M PLAYING SAFE... I HAD TO LEAVE MY SON ERIX ON DEPOSIT TO BUY THIS SHIP!



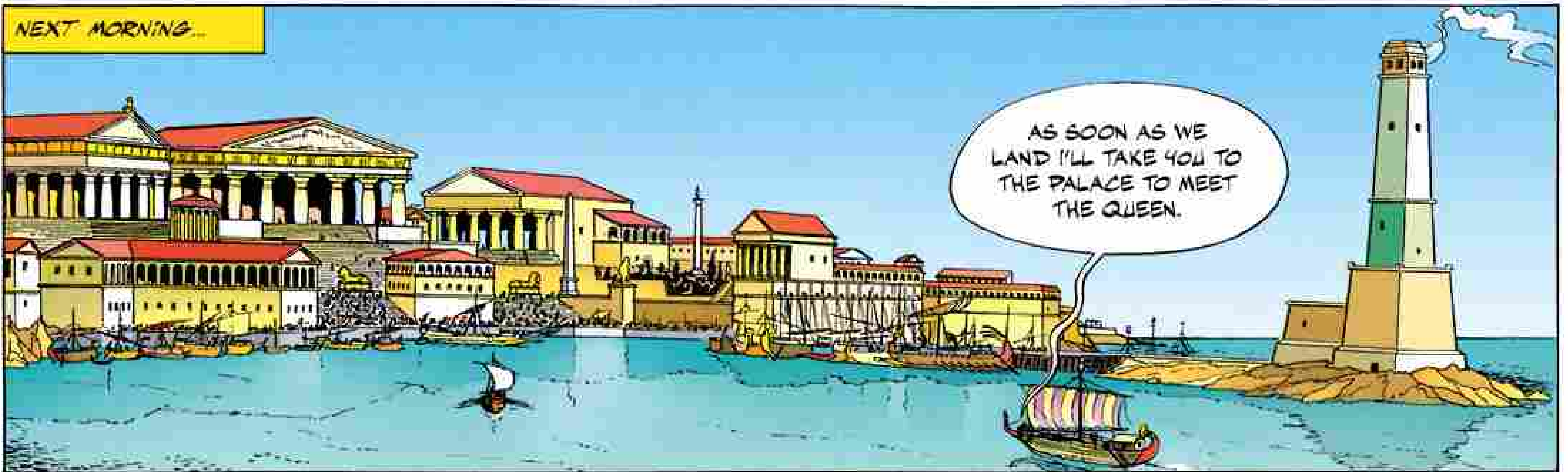
NEXT INSTALMENT COMING UP, SIR! EGYPTIAN SHIP TO STARBOARD.



SPLENDID! WE'LL MAKE OUR FORTUNES! WE'LL DO IT YET! GET READY TO BOARD HER!



NEXT MORNING...



AND IN HER PALACE THE LUXURY-LOVING CLEOPATRA IS SITTING DOWN TO HER FAVOURITE SNACK - PEARLS DISSOLVED IN VINEGAR



HERE, TASTER! GET ON WITH YOUR JOB!

VERY WELL, O QUEEN!



VERY WELL, BUT GET ON WITH IT! THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME LEFT, AND CAESAR KEEPS NEEDLING ME. IF YOU SUCCEED THERE'LL BE GOLD ALL ROUND. IF NOT - THE CROCODILES!

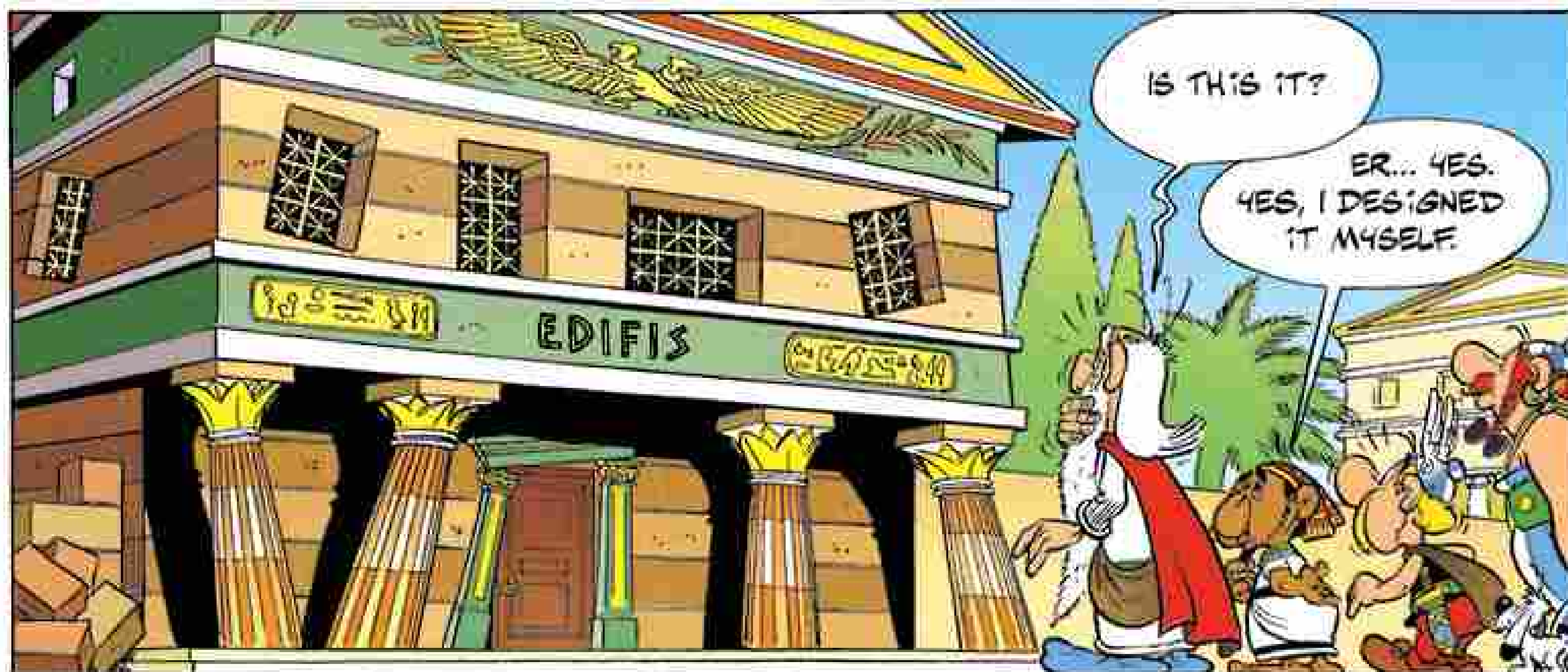


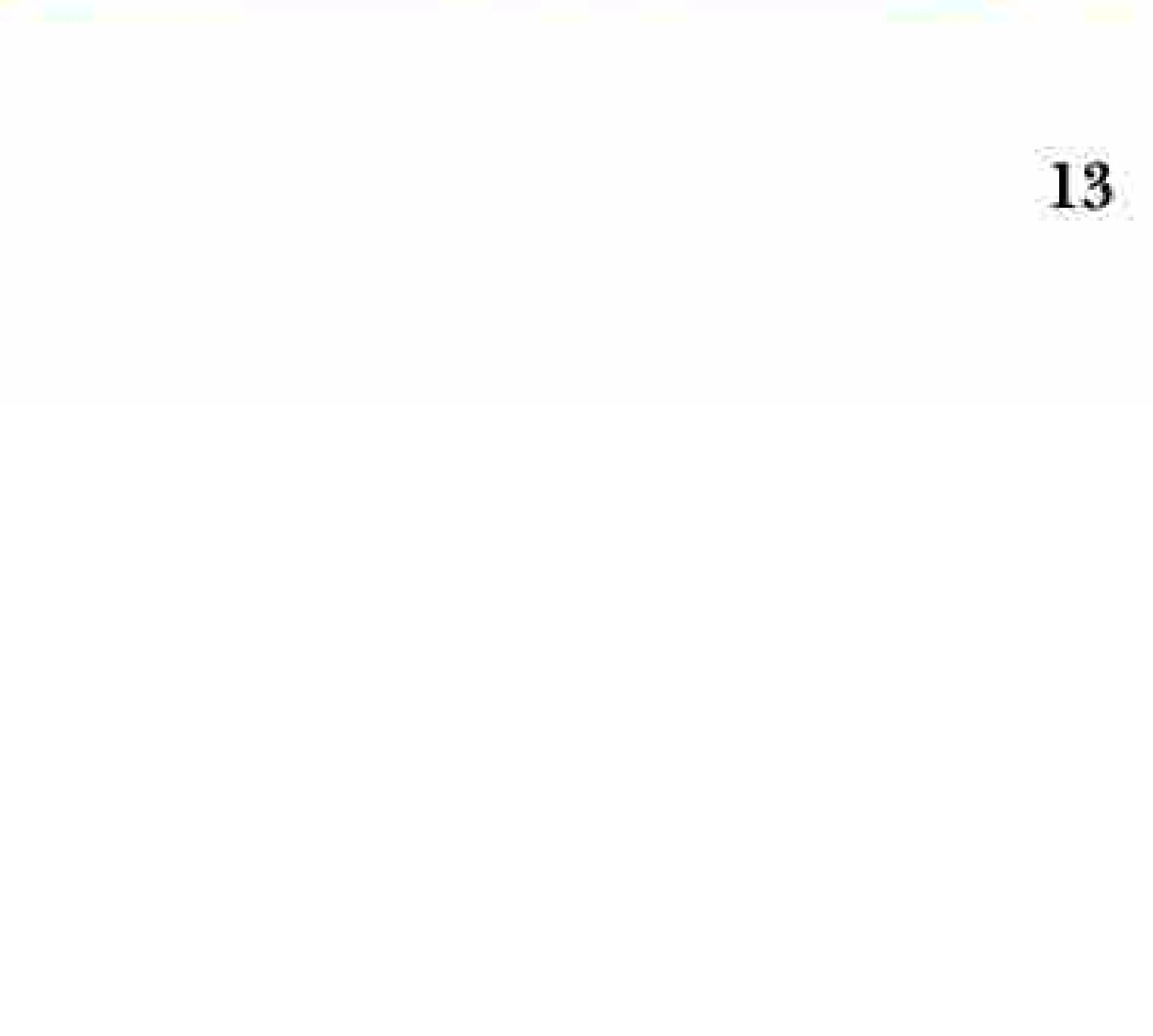
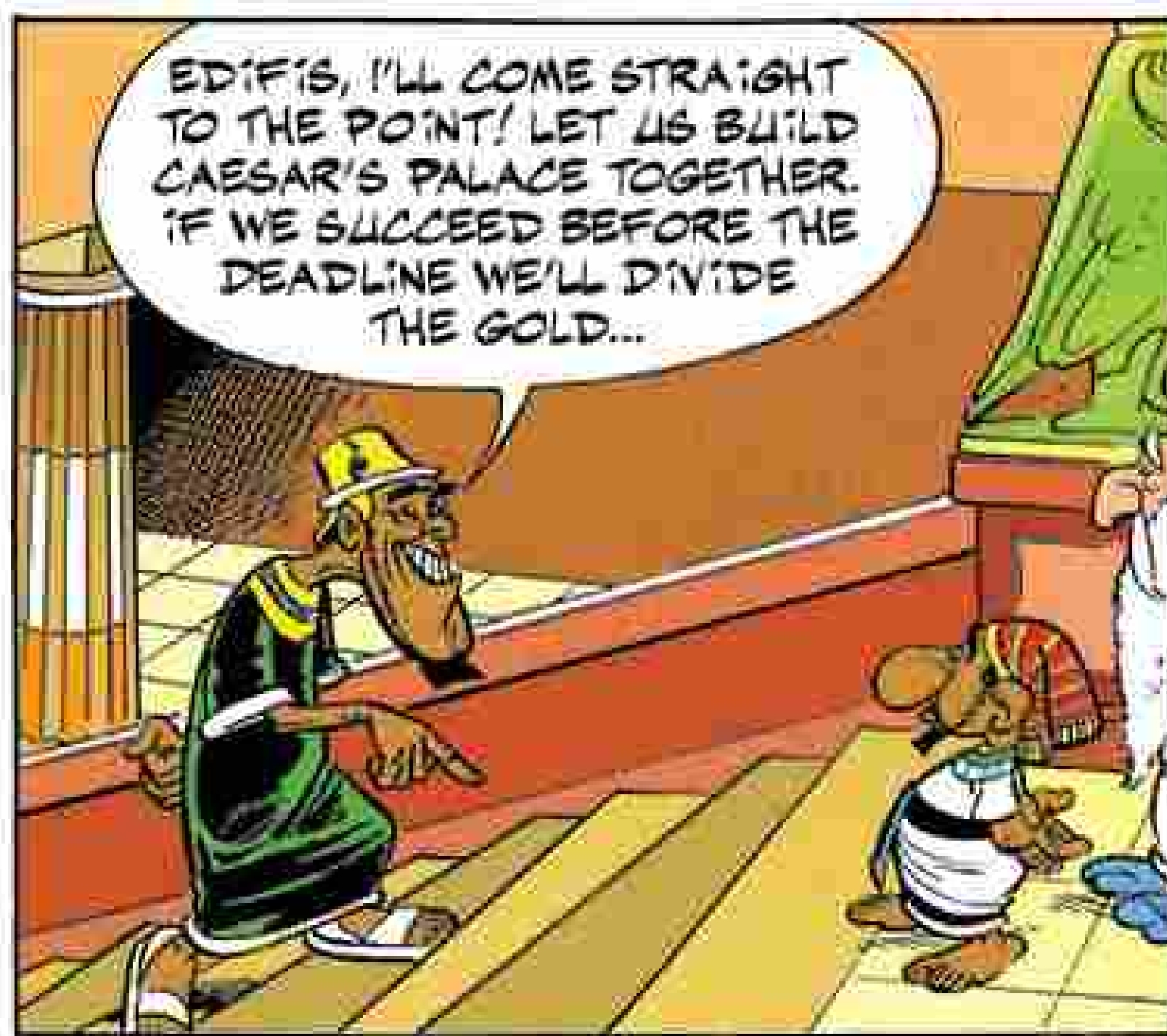
AND I WARN YOU, EDIFIS, YOUR RIVAL ARTIFIS IS NOT PLEASED THAT I CHOSE YOU AND NOT HIM TO BUILD CAESAR'S PALACE. HE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU END UP INSIDE A CROCODILE. YOU MAY GO.

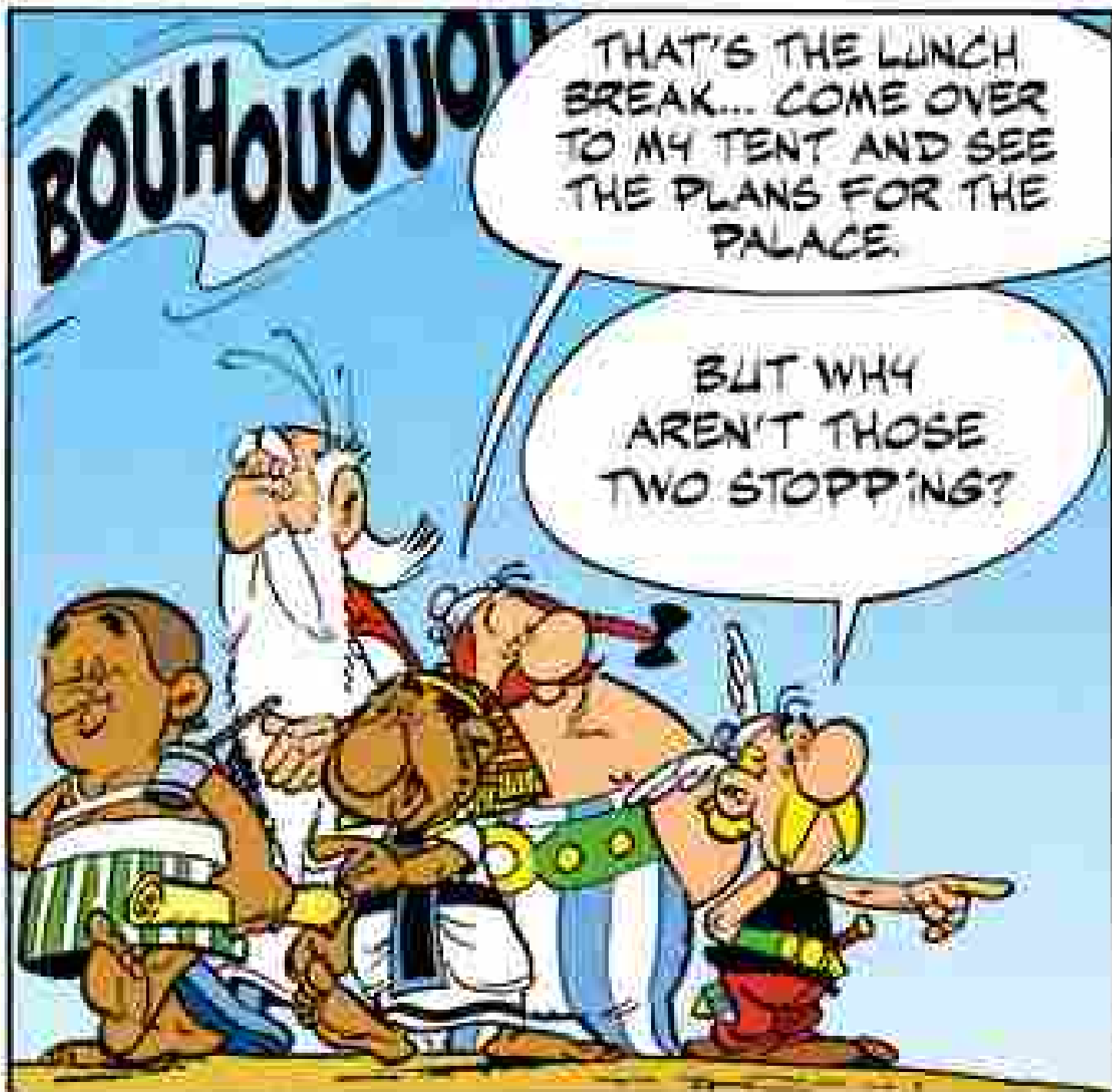
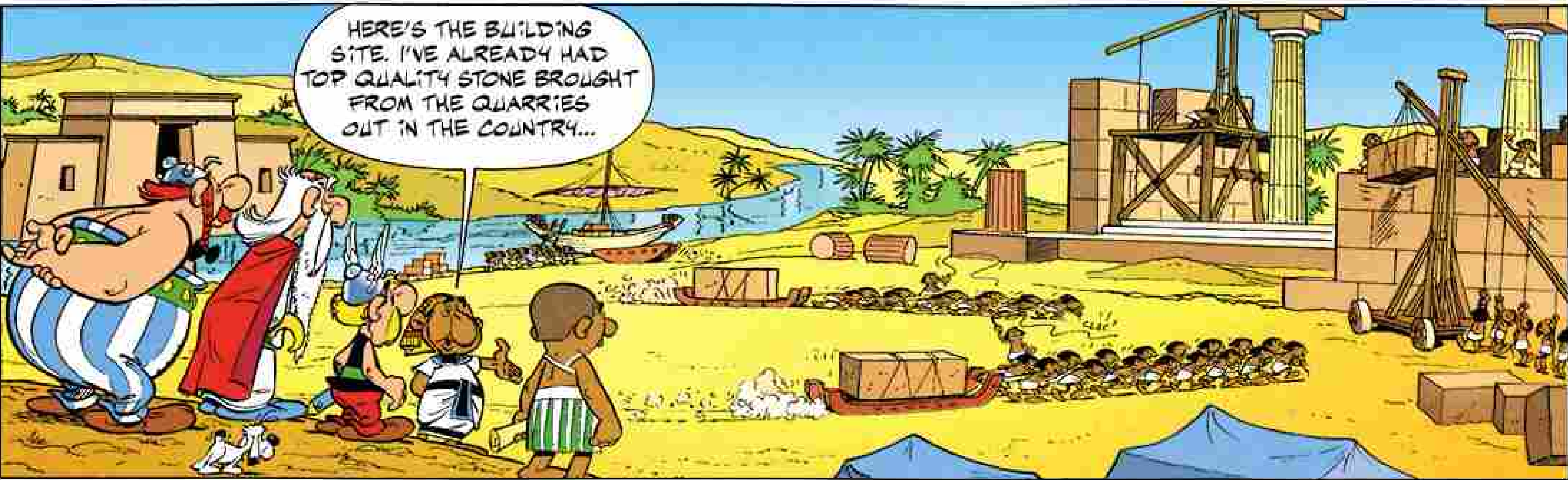


SHE LOOKS BAD TEMPERED, BUT SHE HAS A PRETTY NOSE...





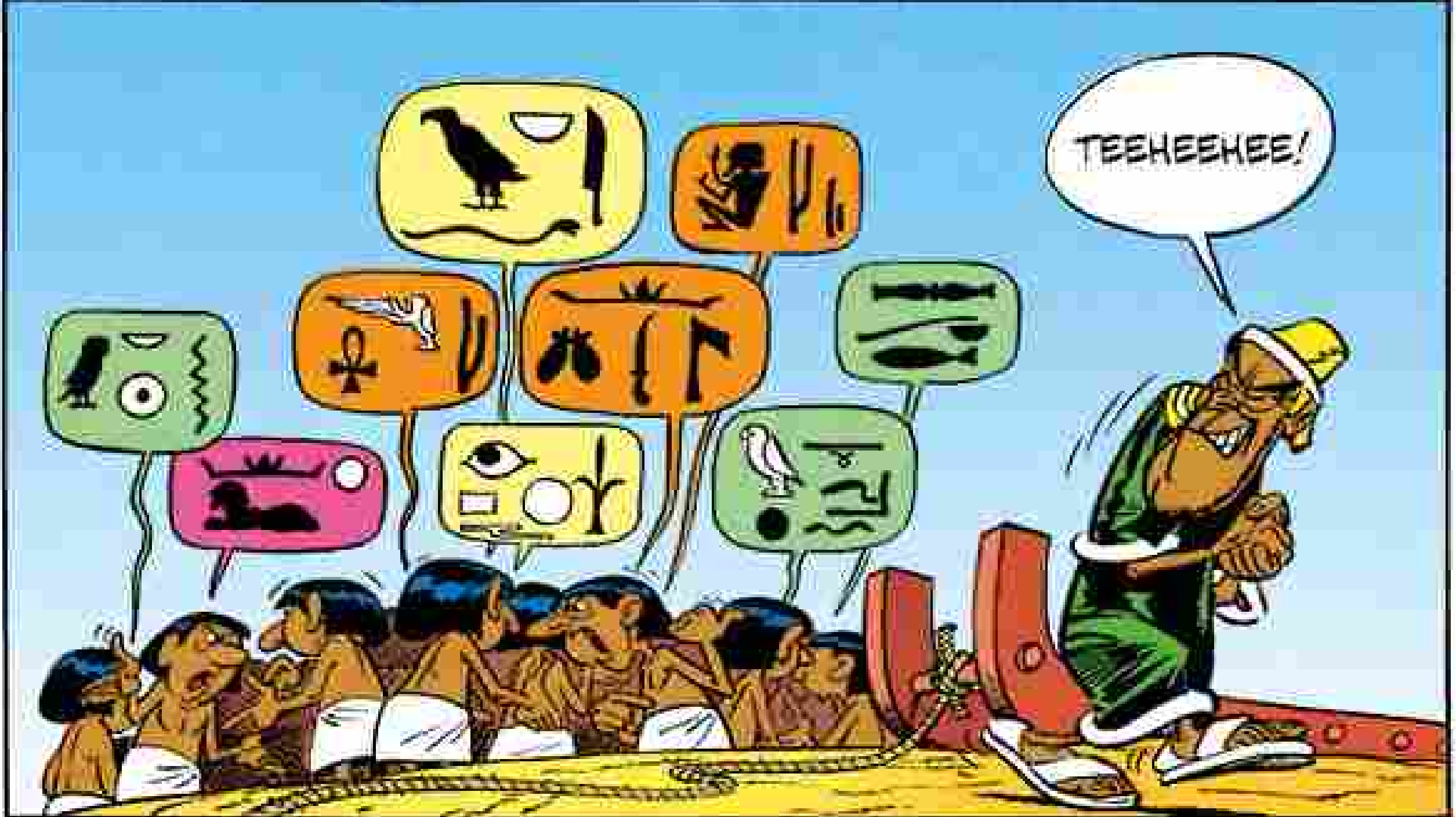




DURING THE LENTIL BREAK
THE LABOURERS HAVE AN
UNEXPECTED VISITOR...



WHOSE REMARKS
ARE EVIDENTLY OF
ABSORBING INTEREST



AND AT THE END OF
THE LENTIL BREAK...

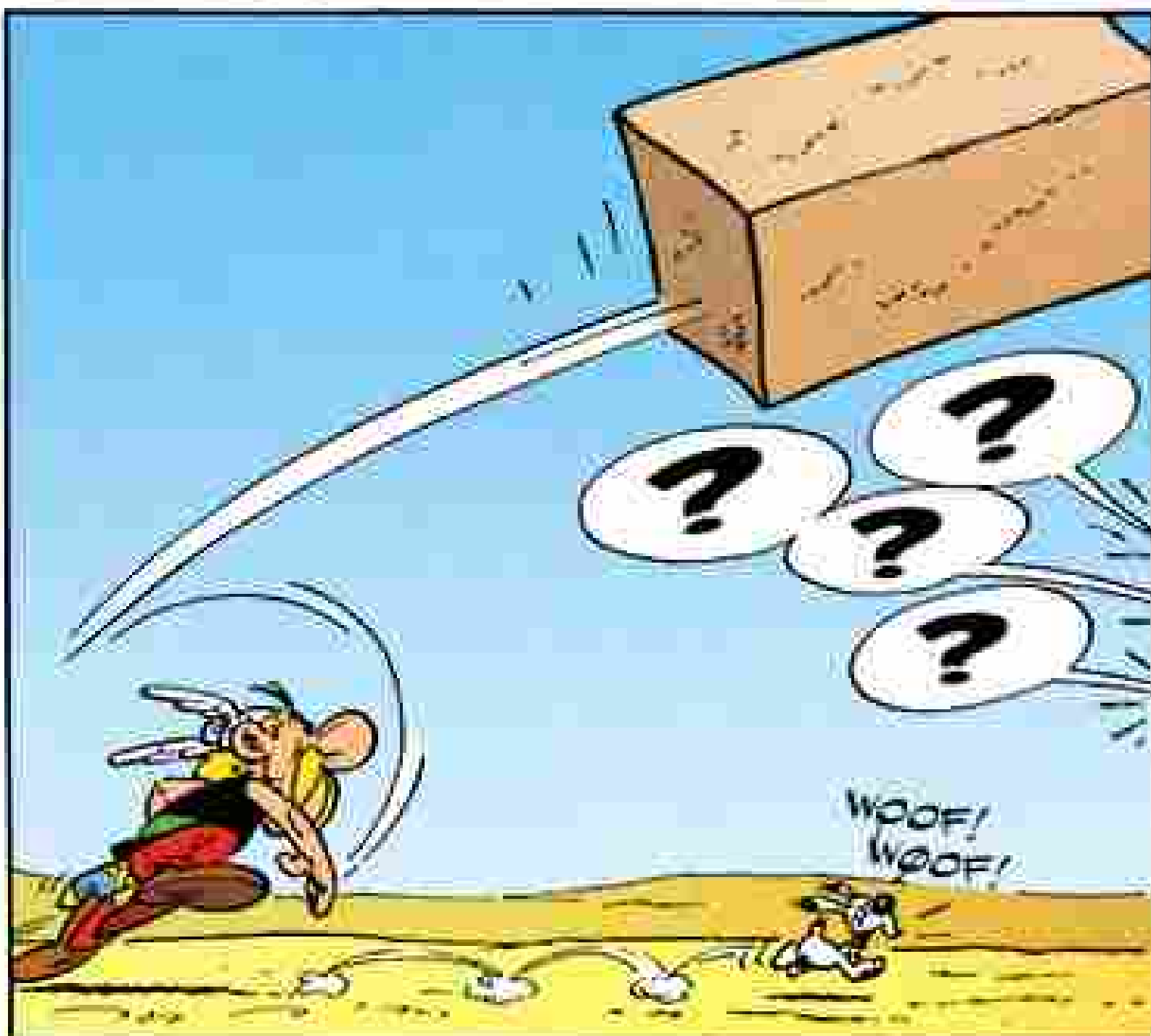
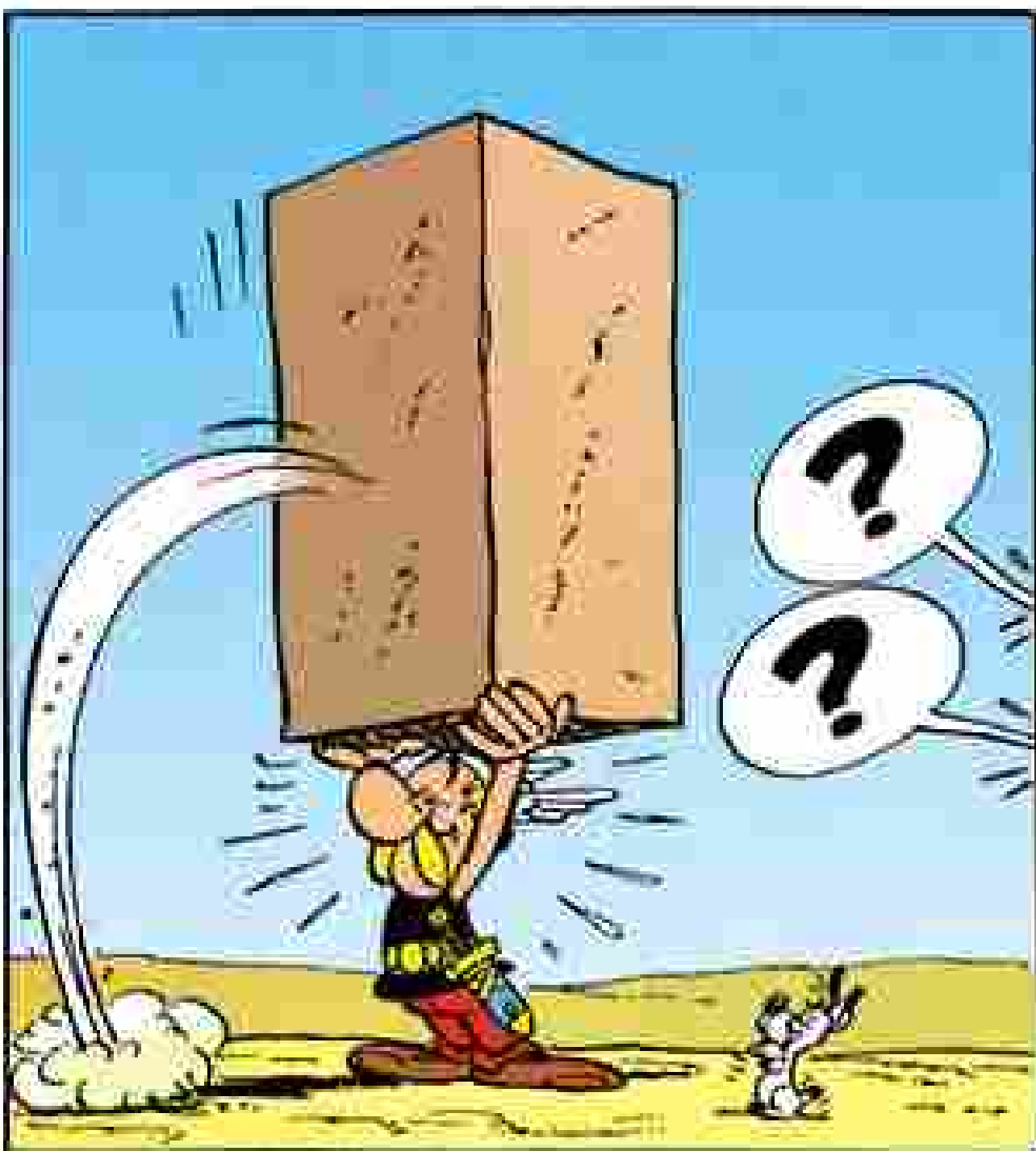
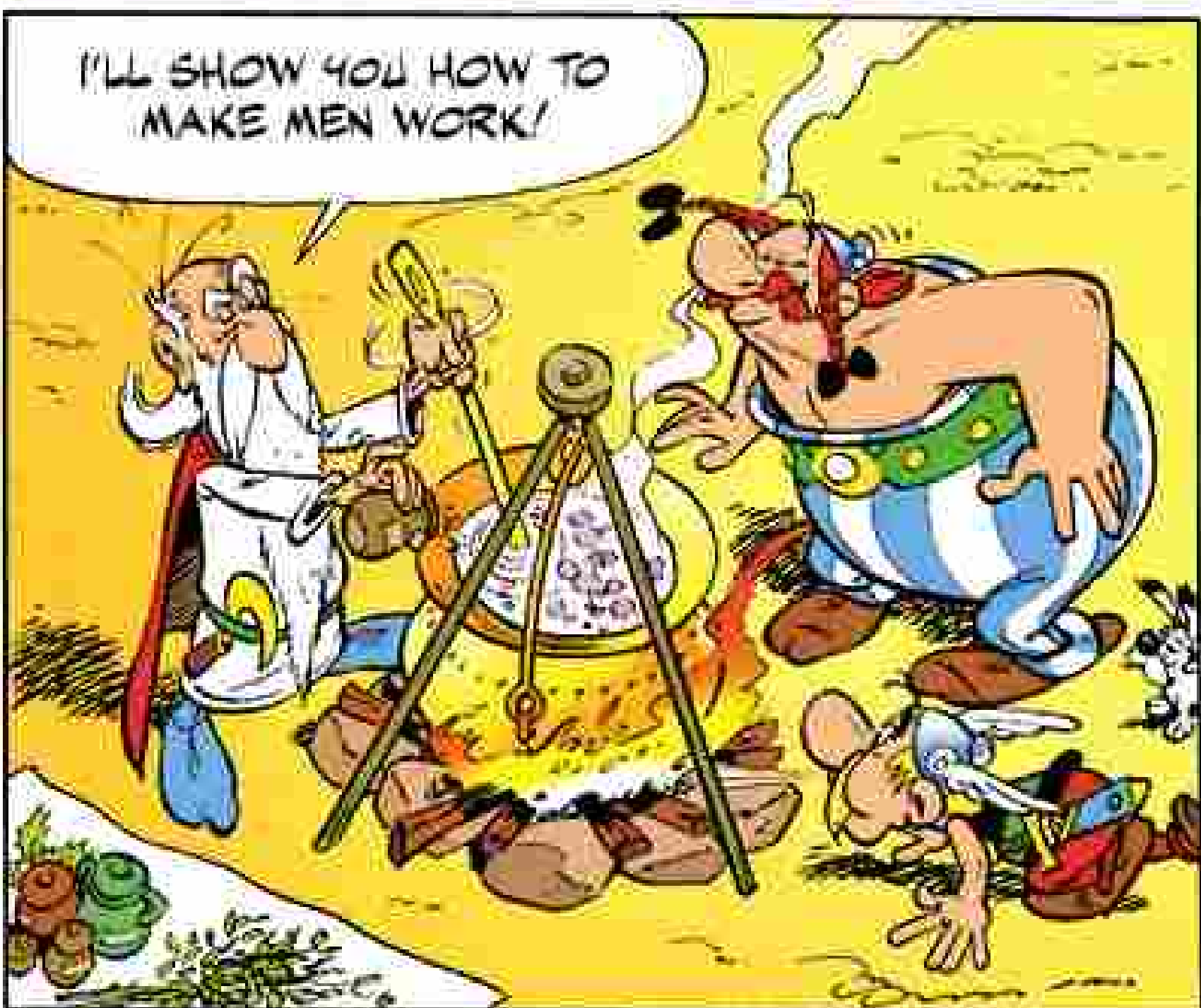
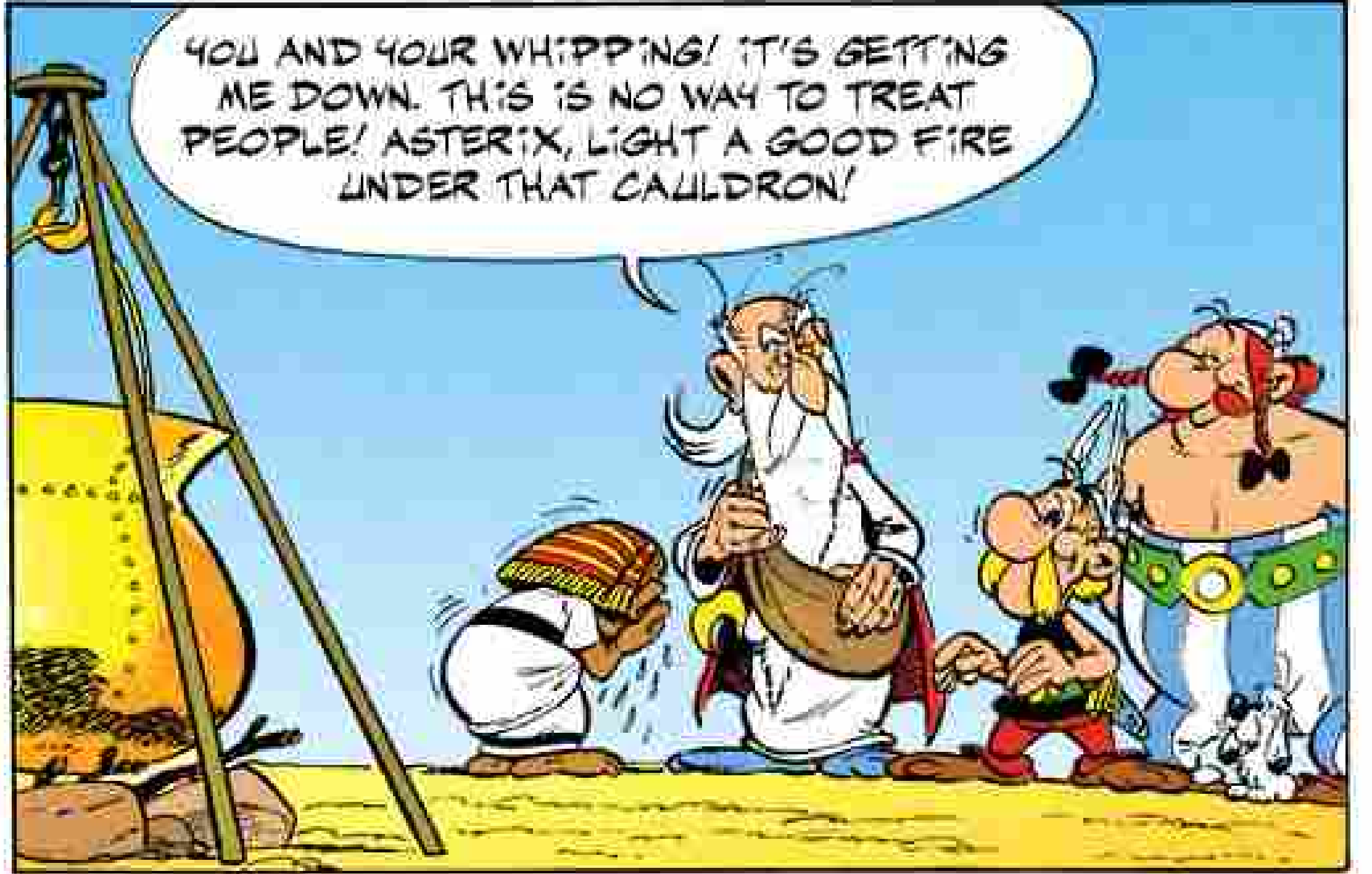
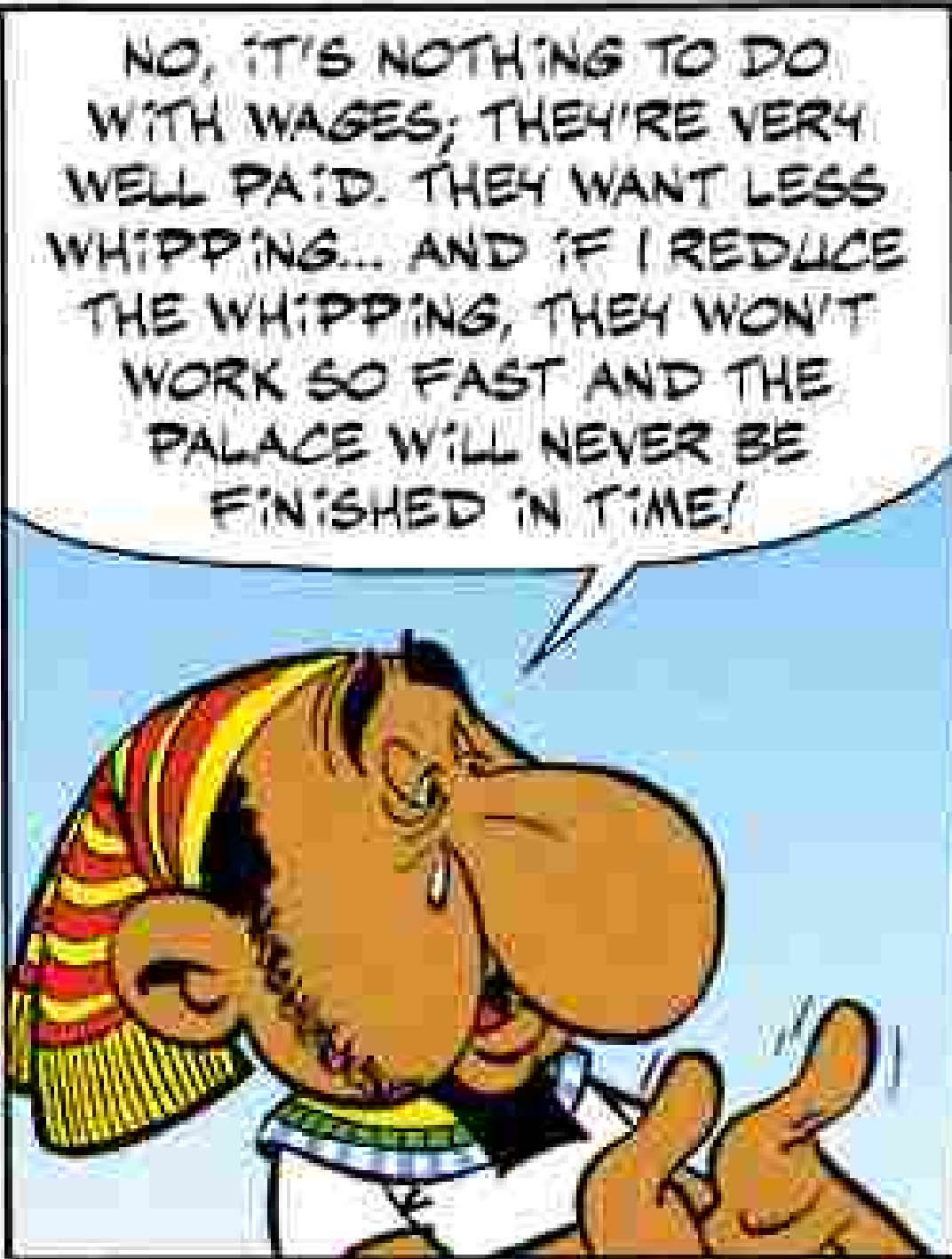


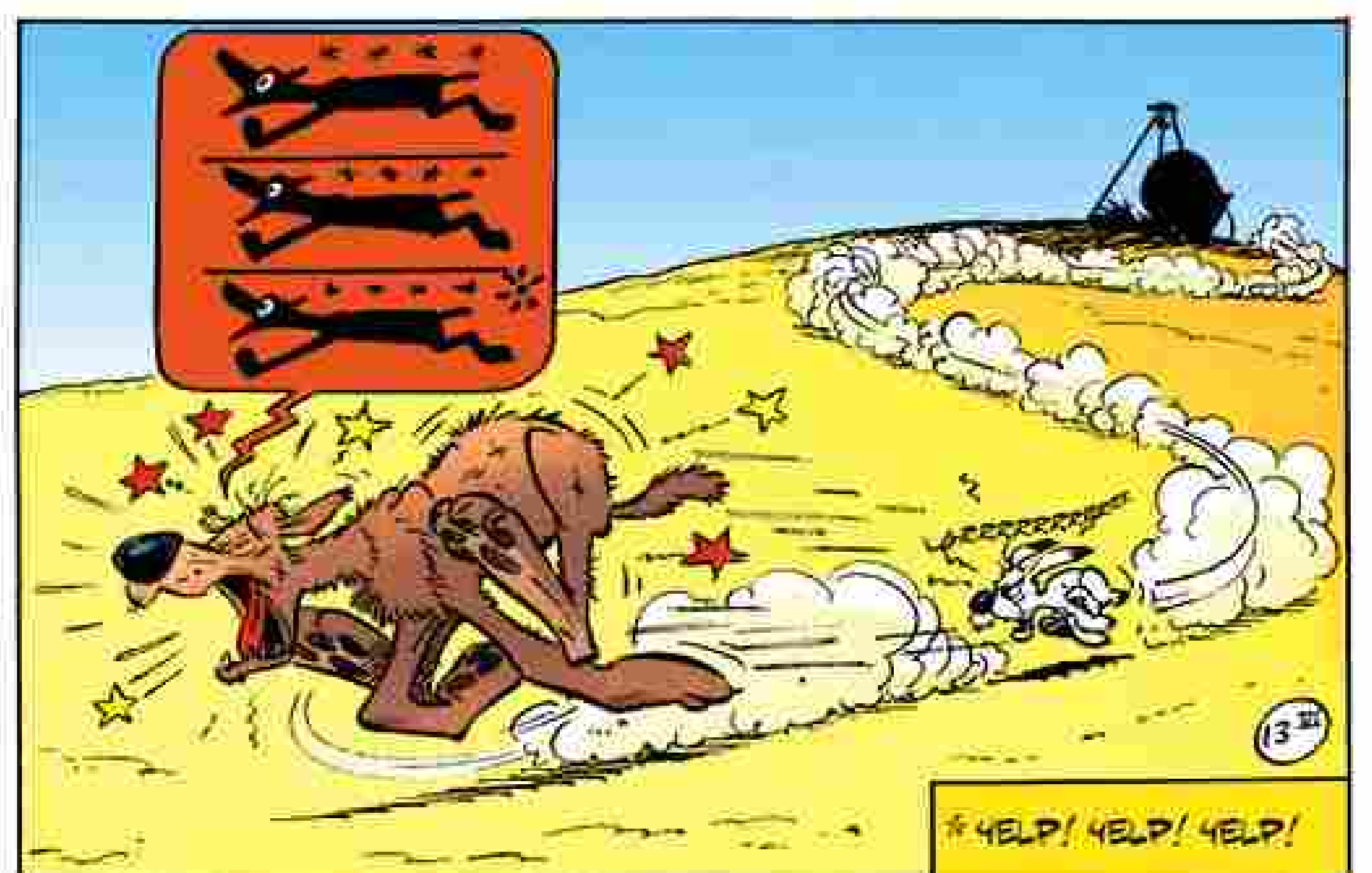
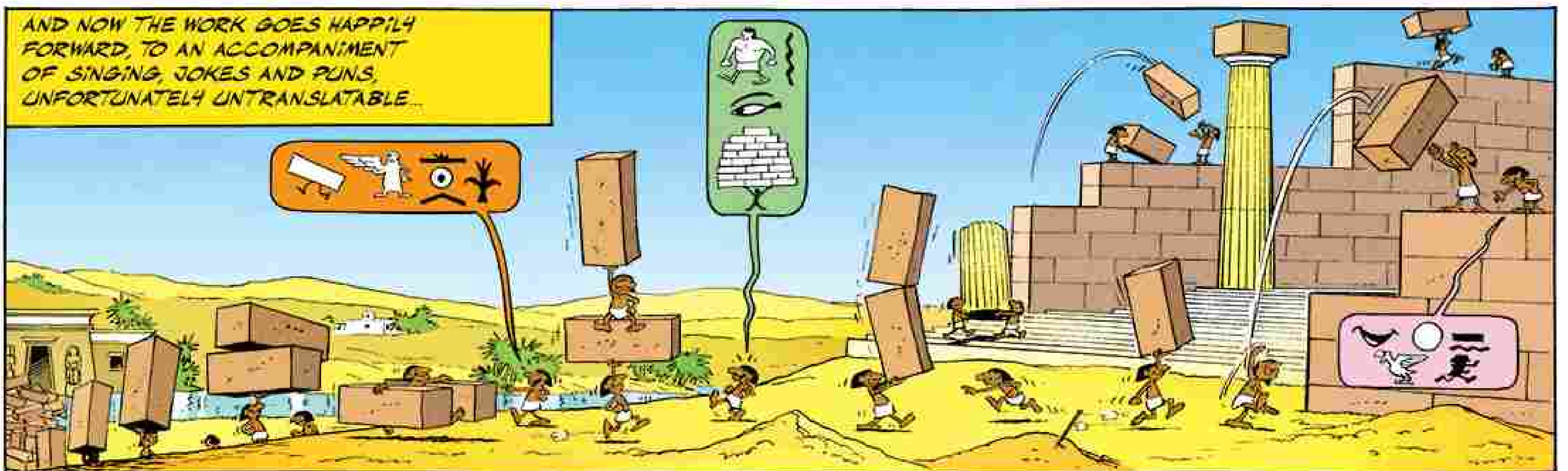
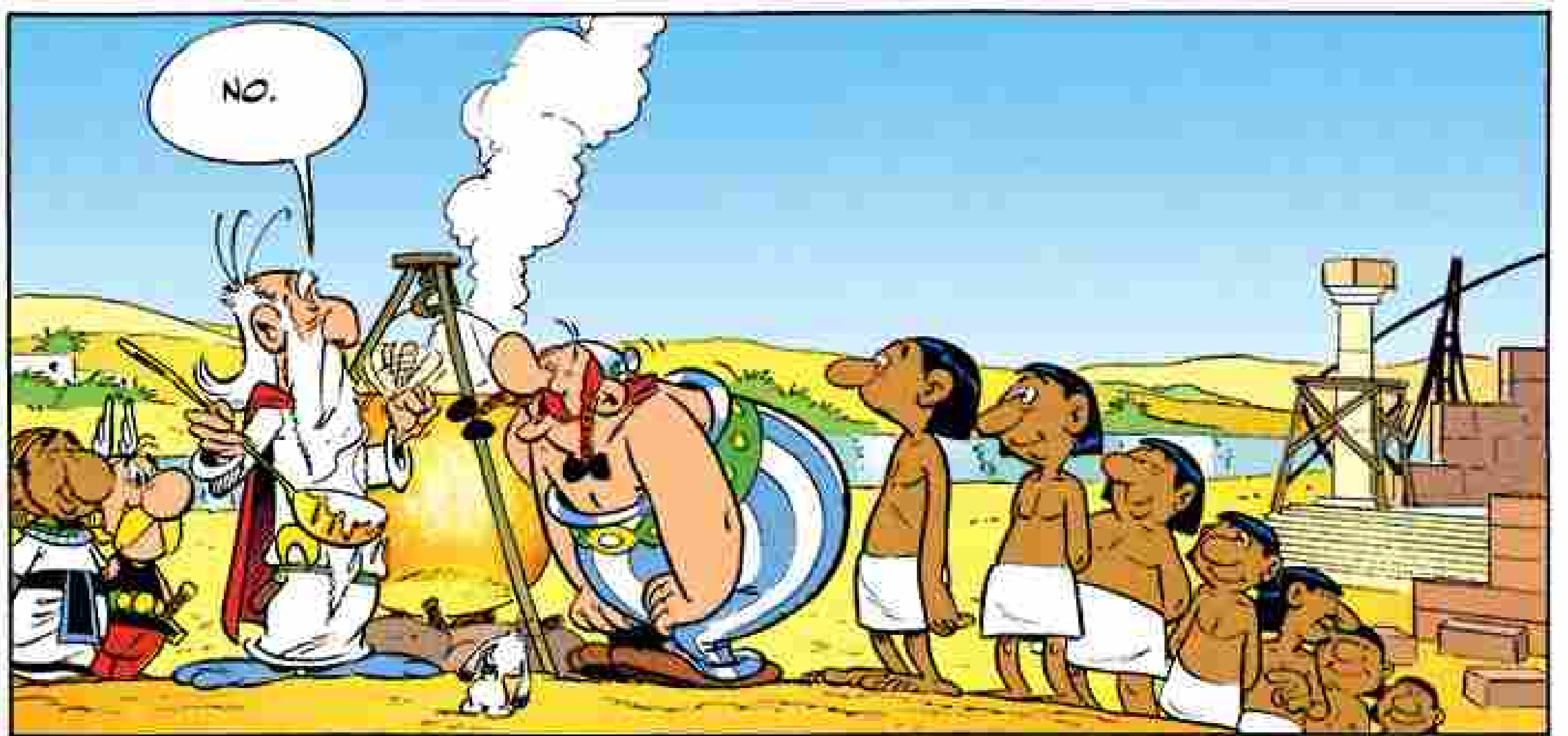
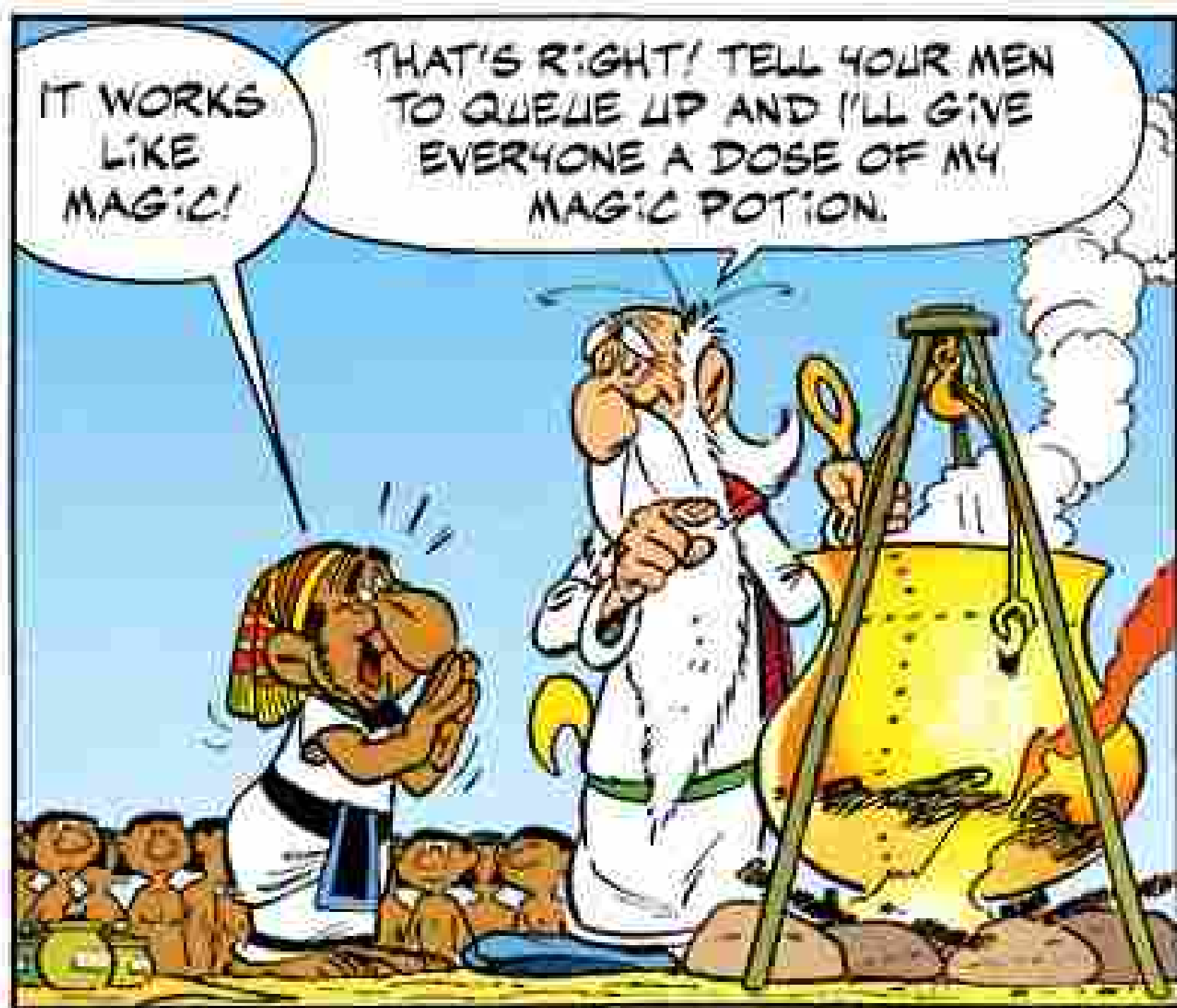
THE LABOURERS
MAKE IT PERFECTLY
CLEAR...

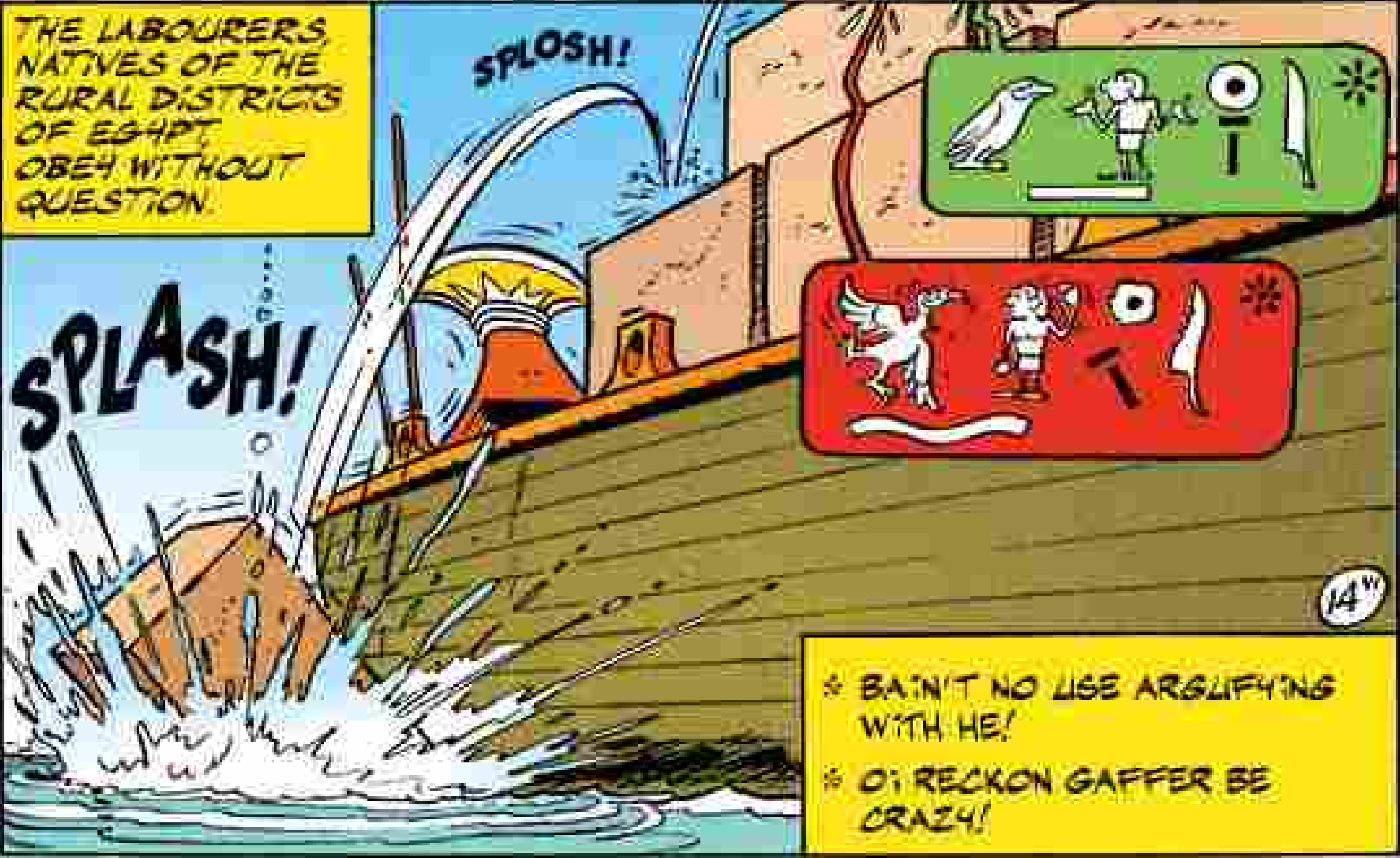
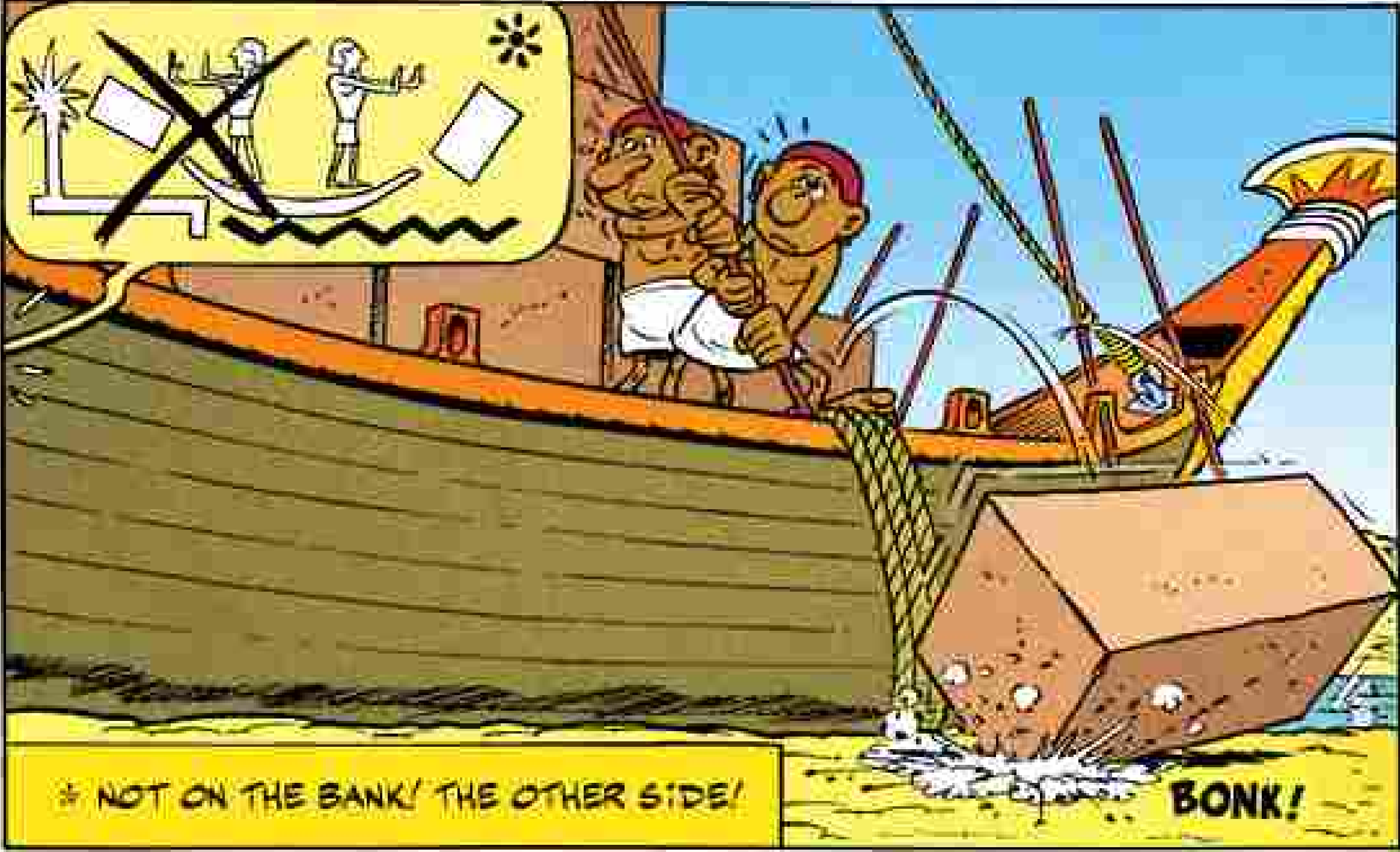
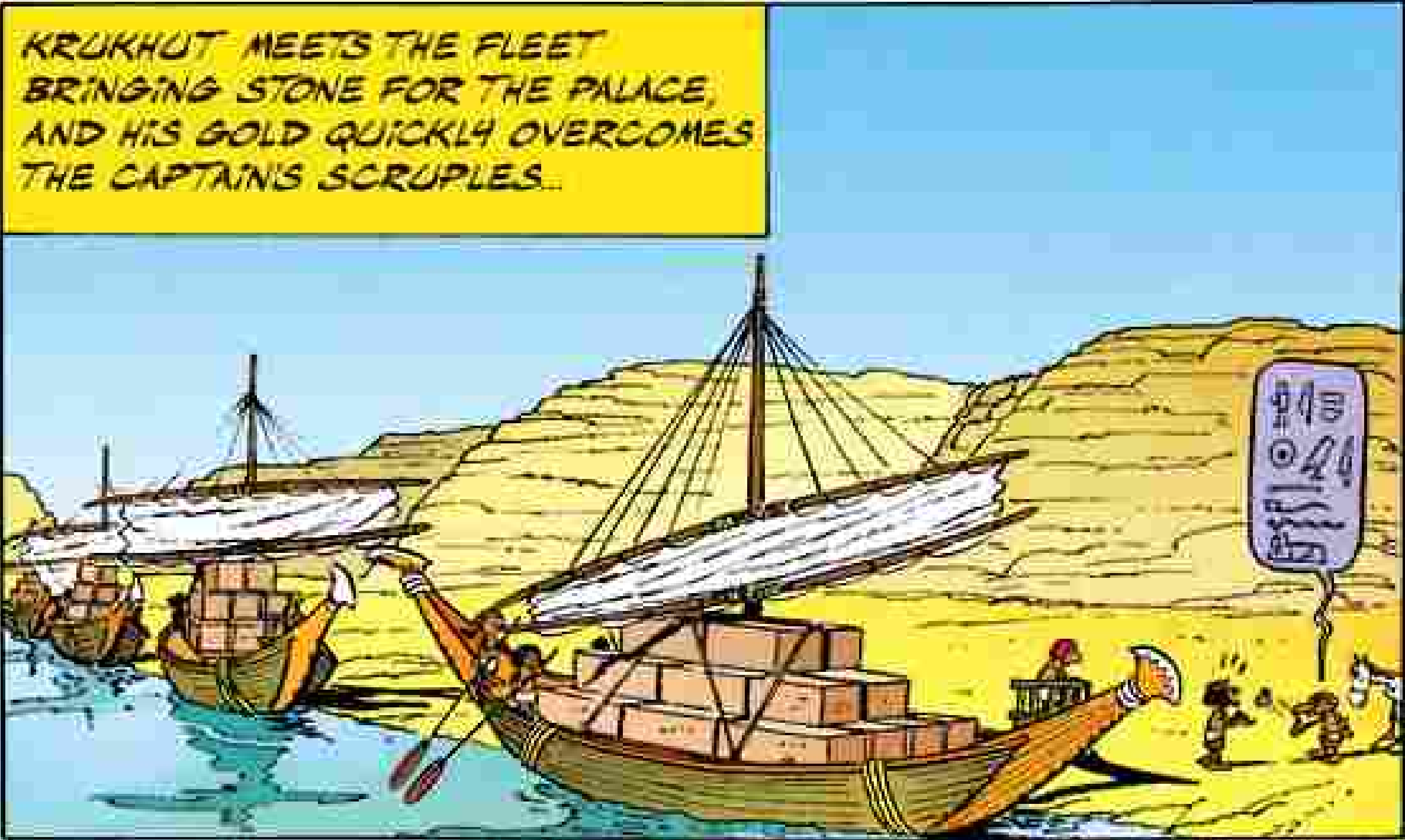
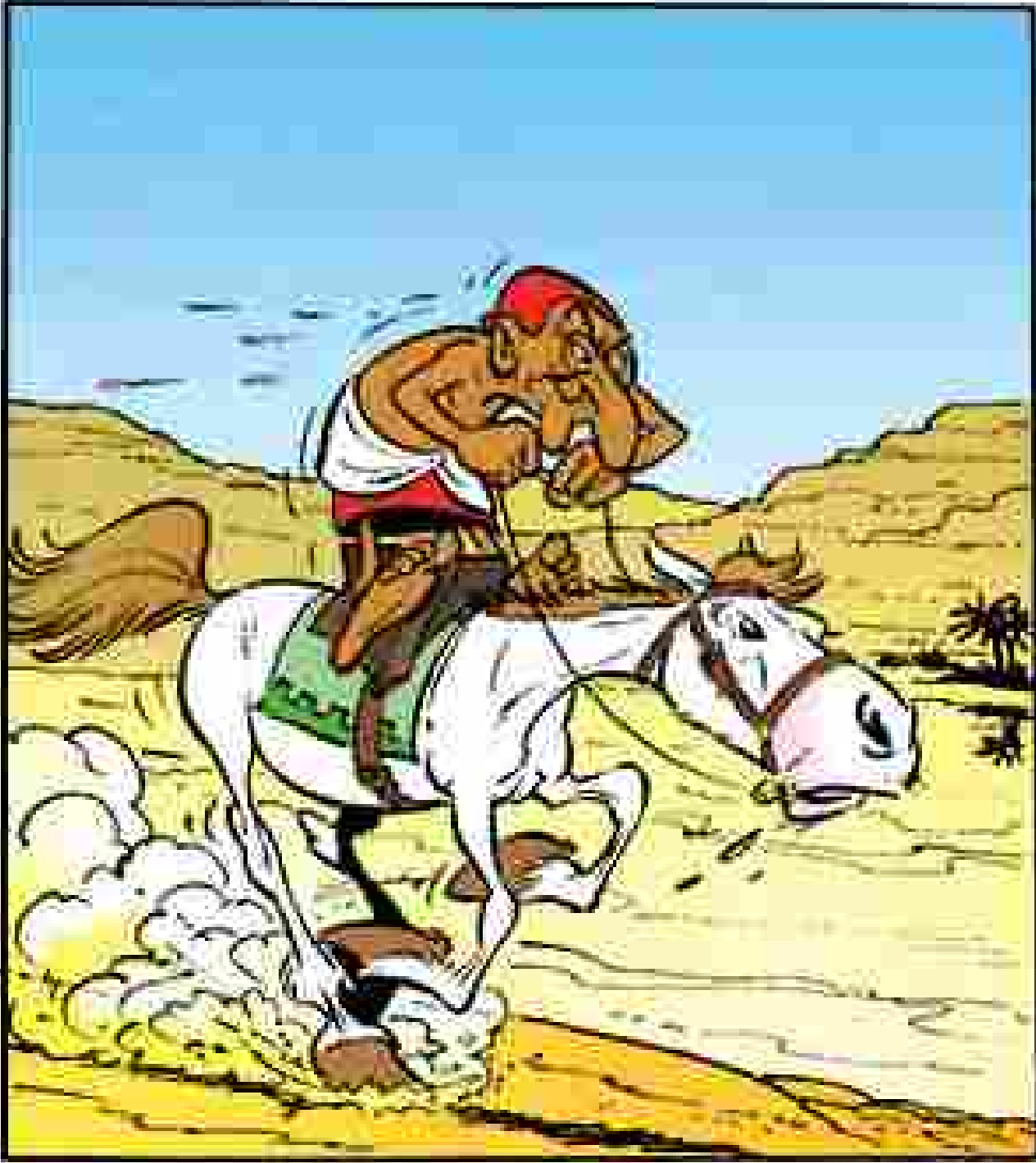


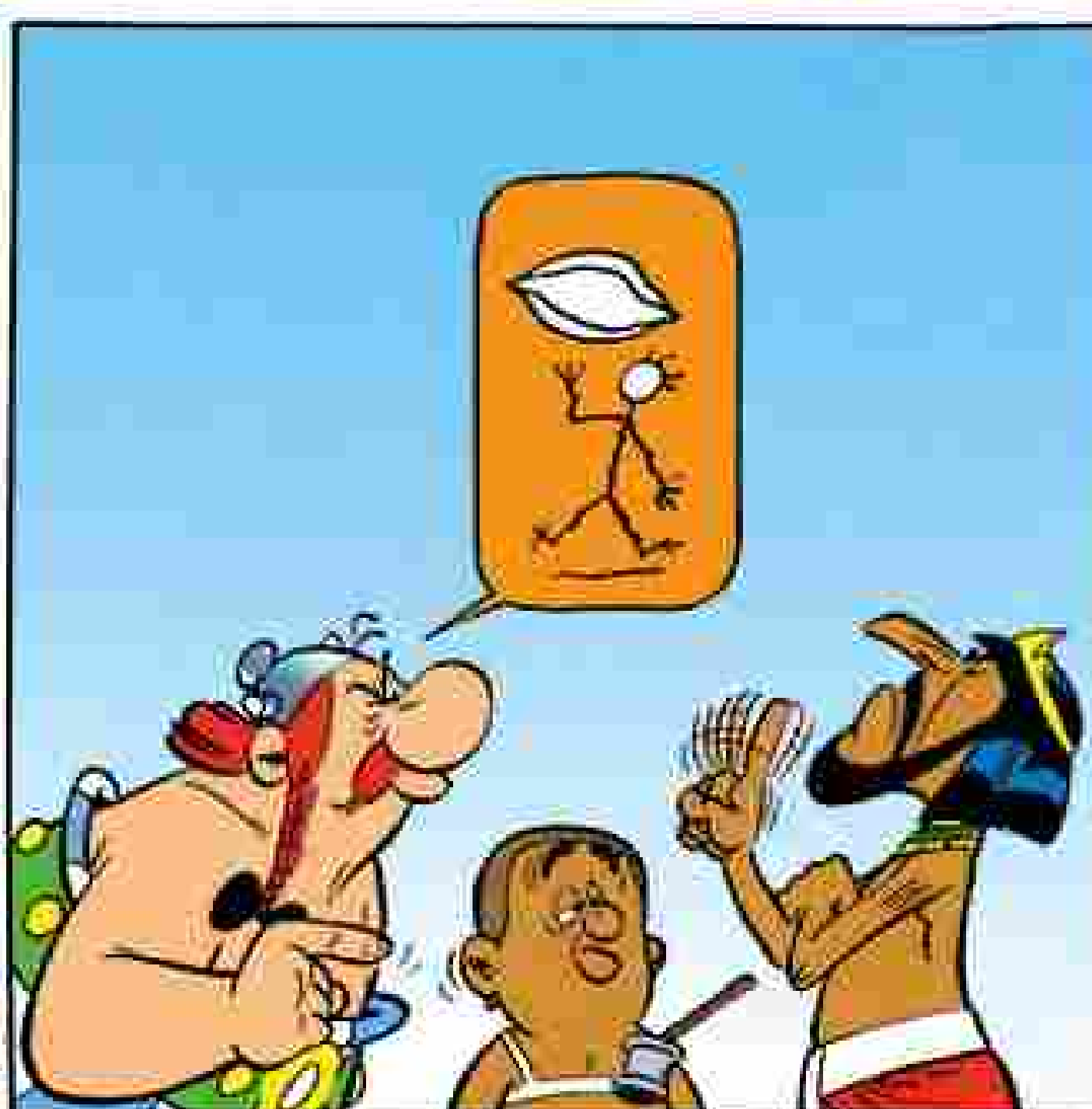
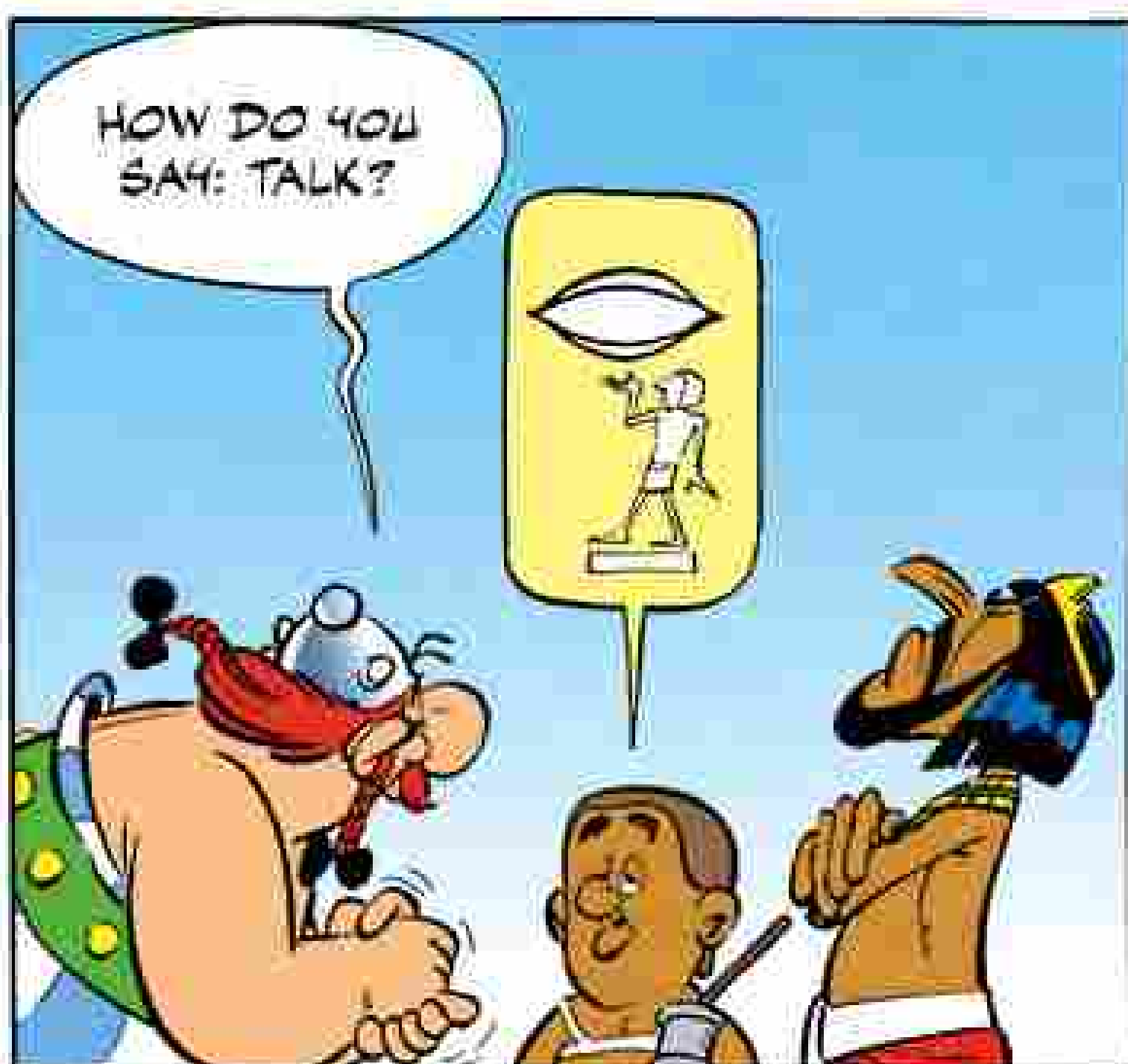
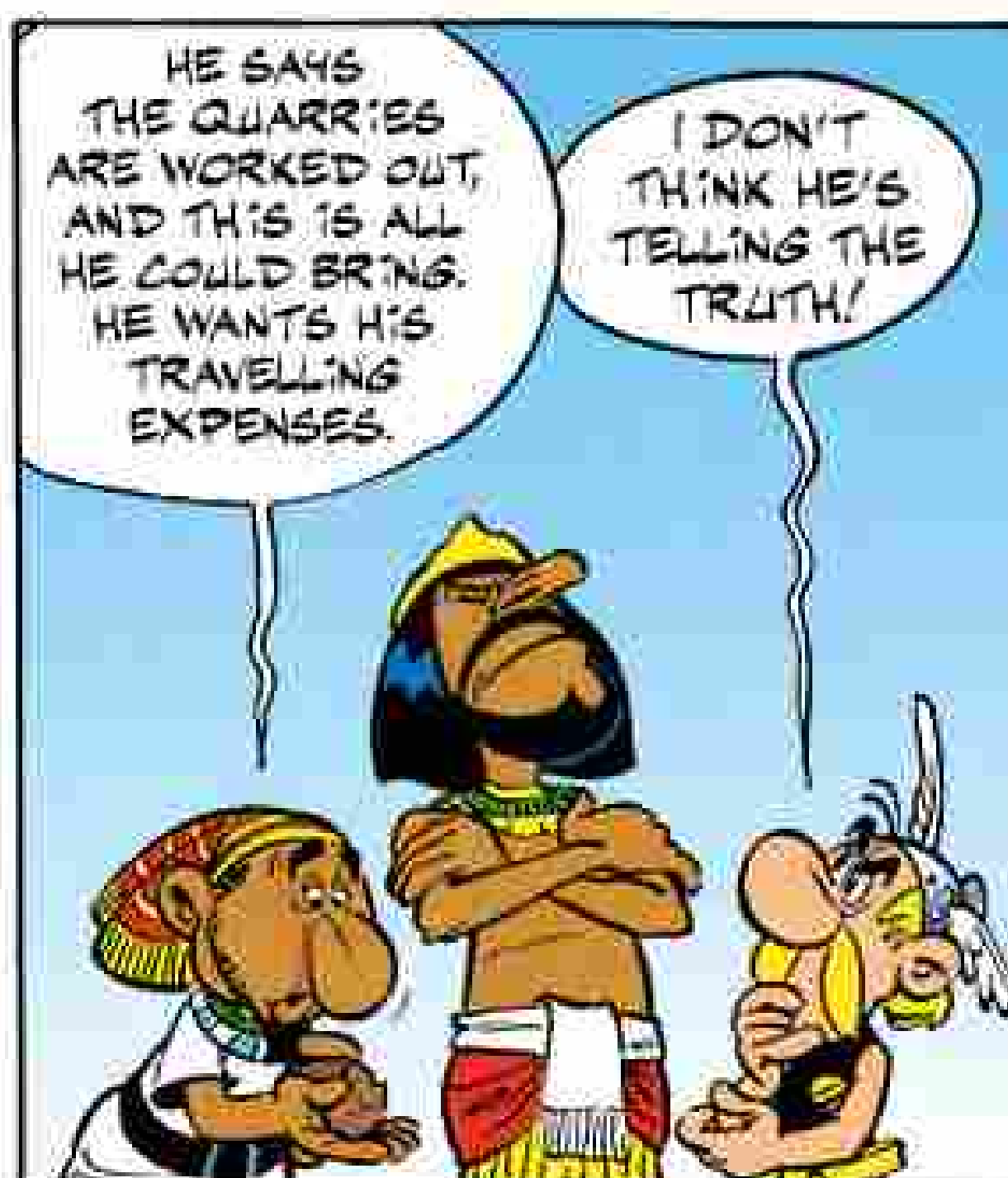
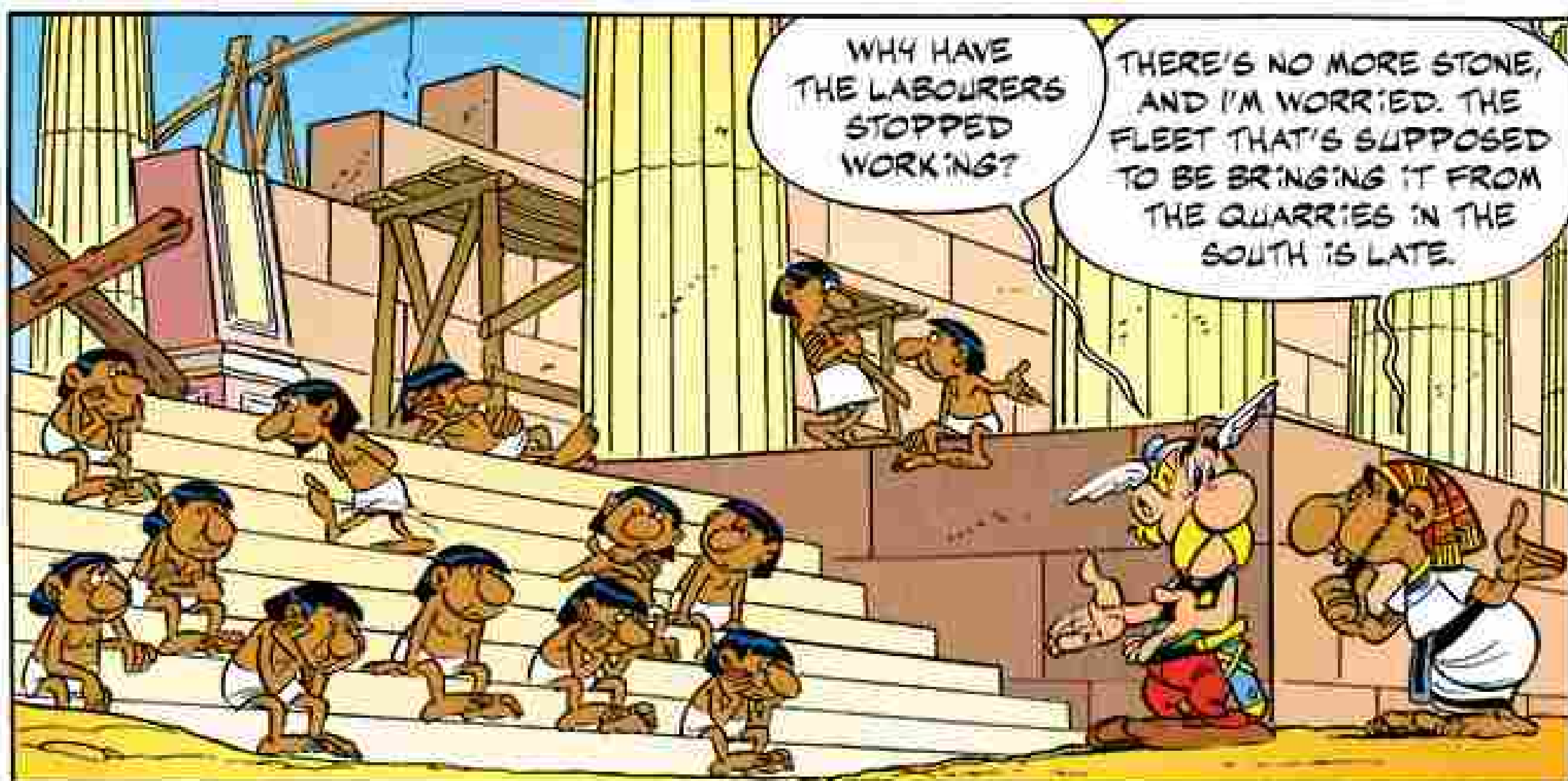
THAT THEY ARE NOT
GOING BACK TO WORK

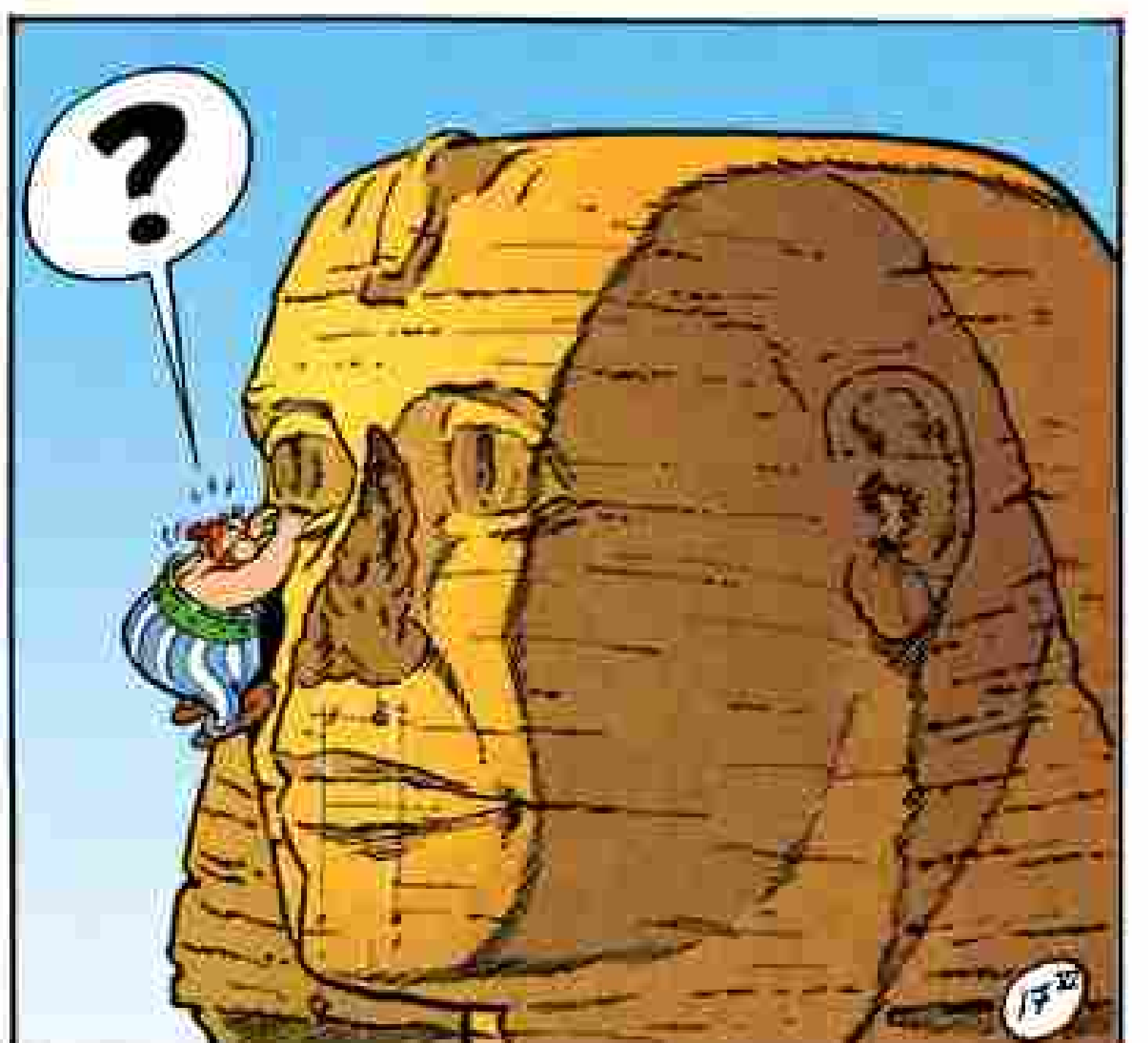
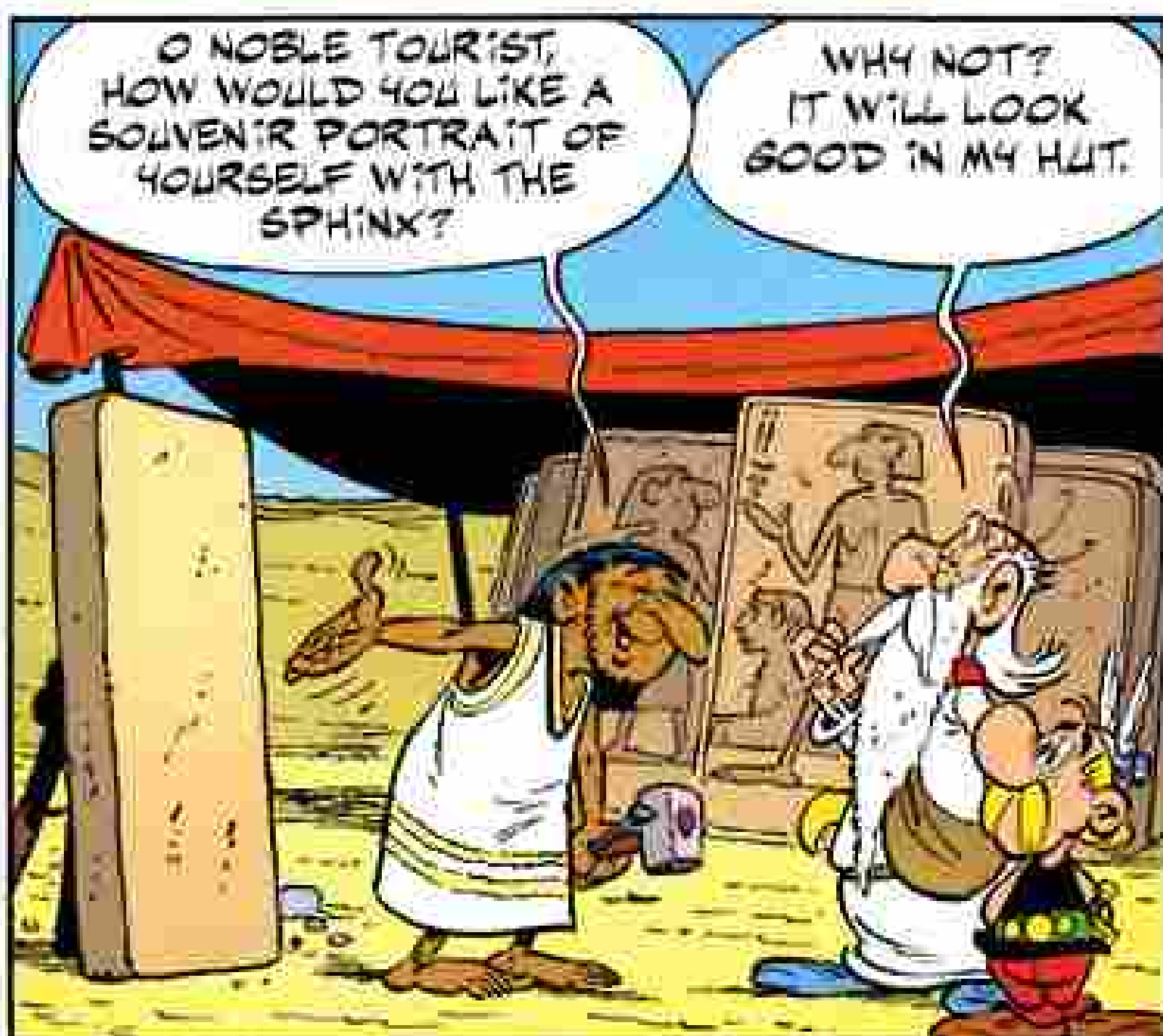
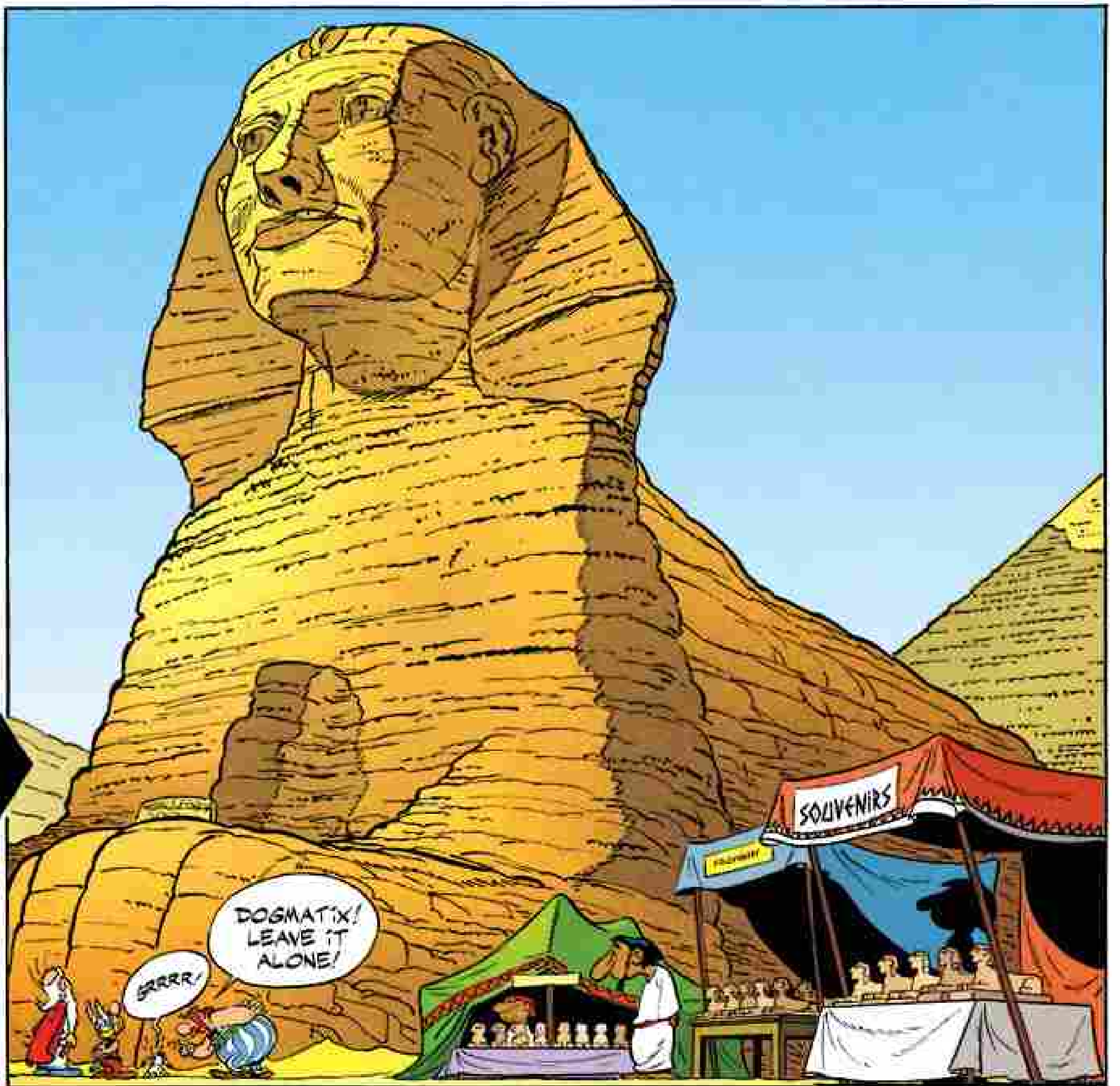


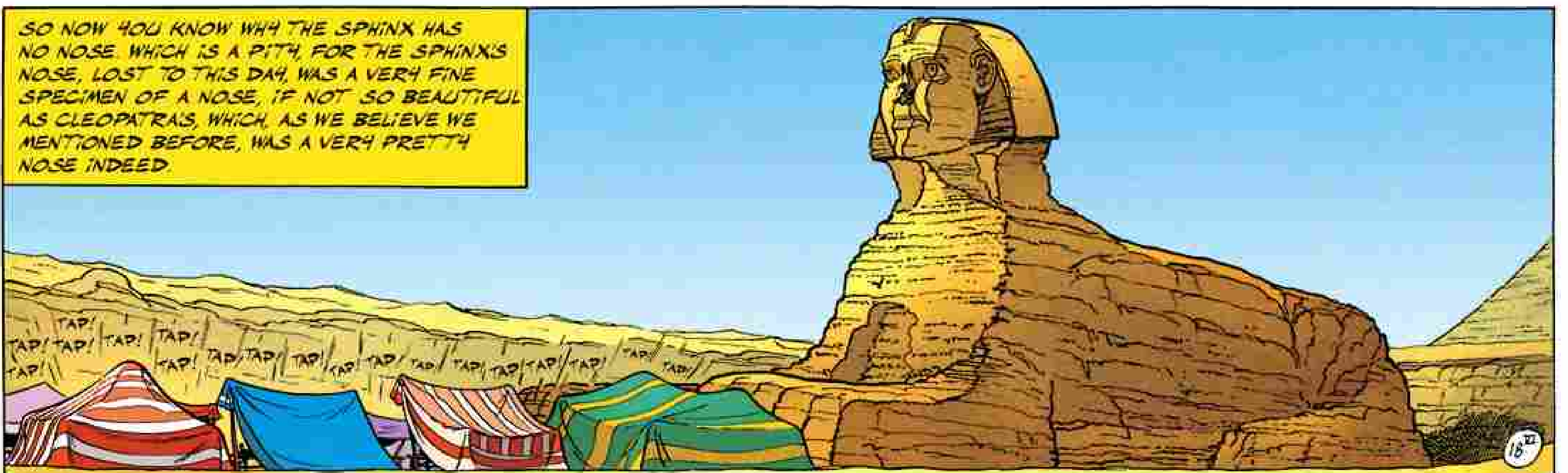
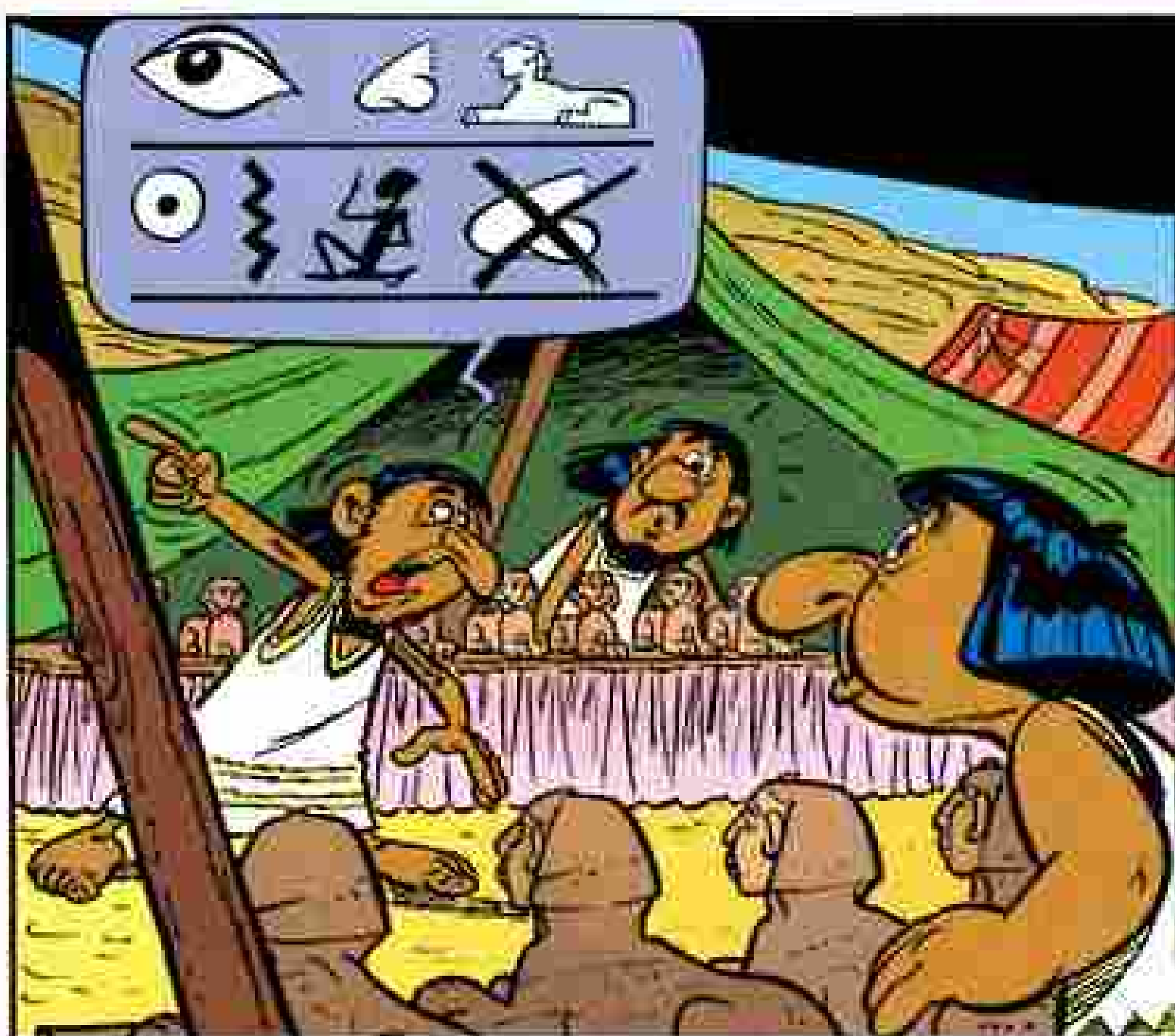
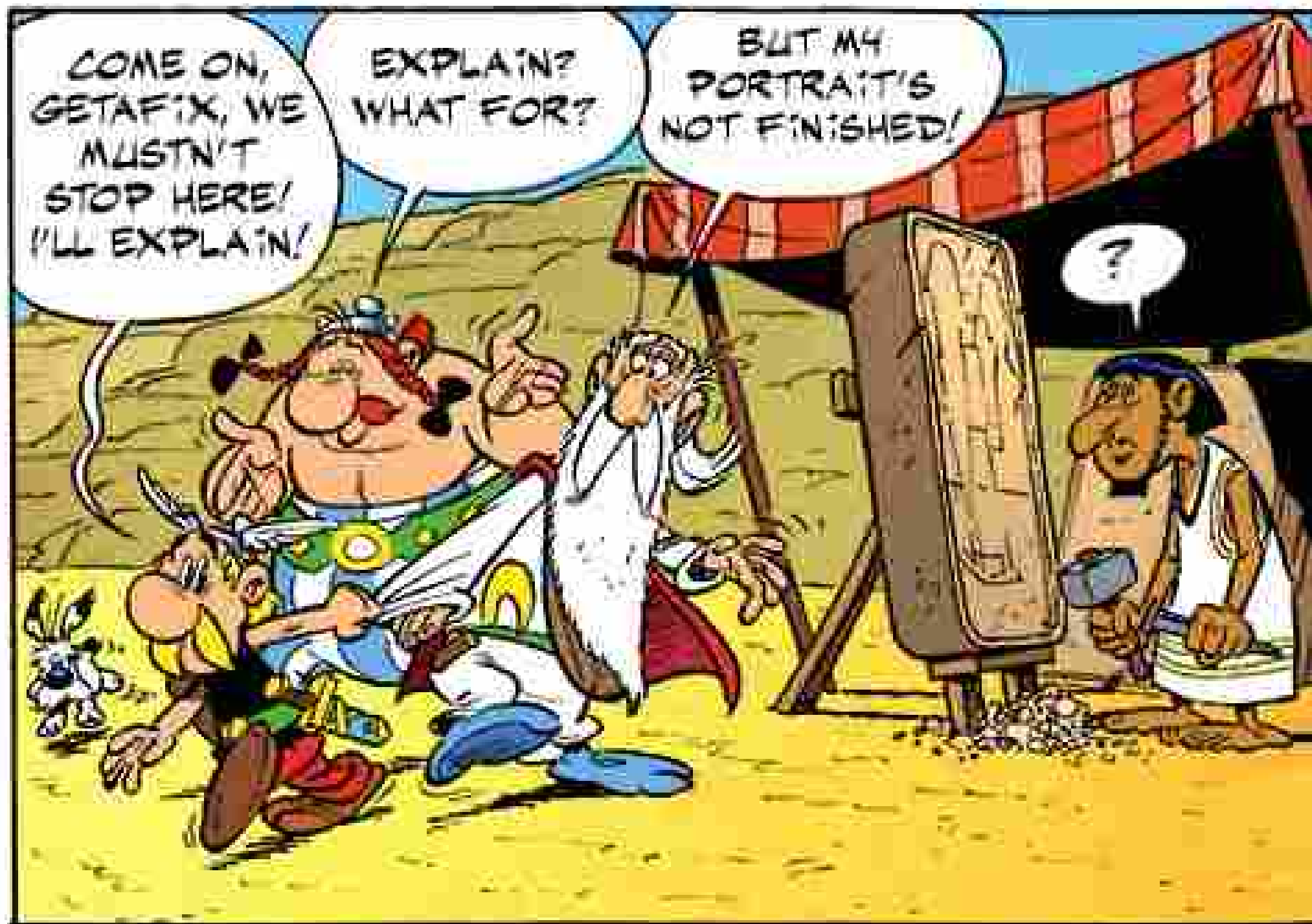
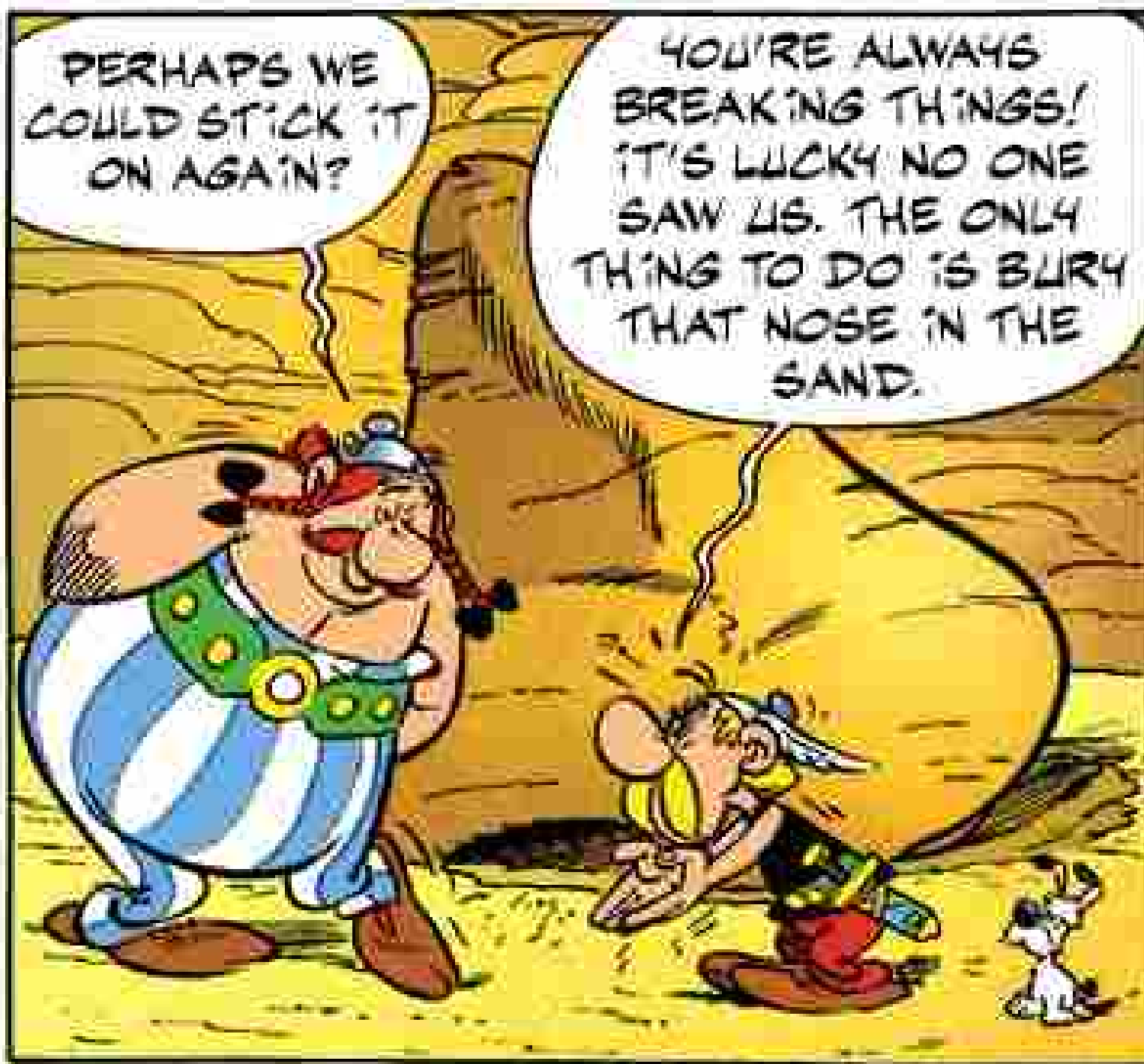


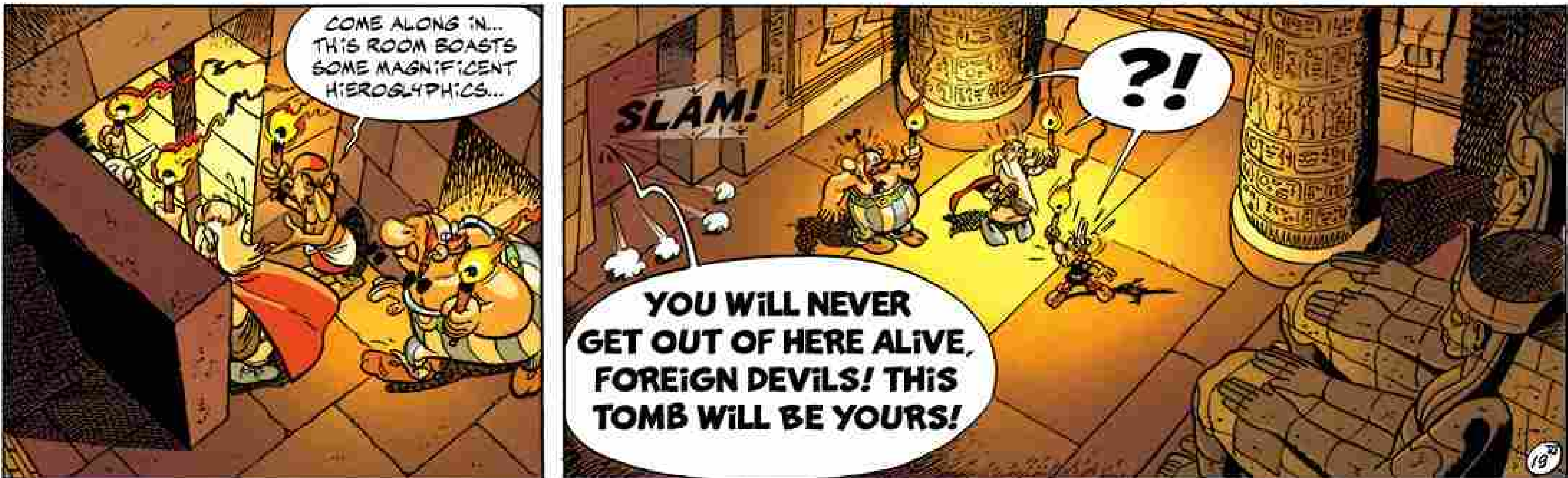
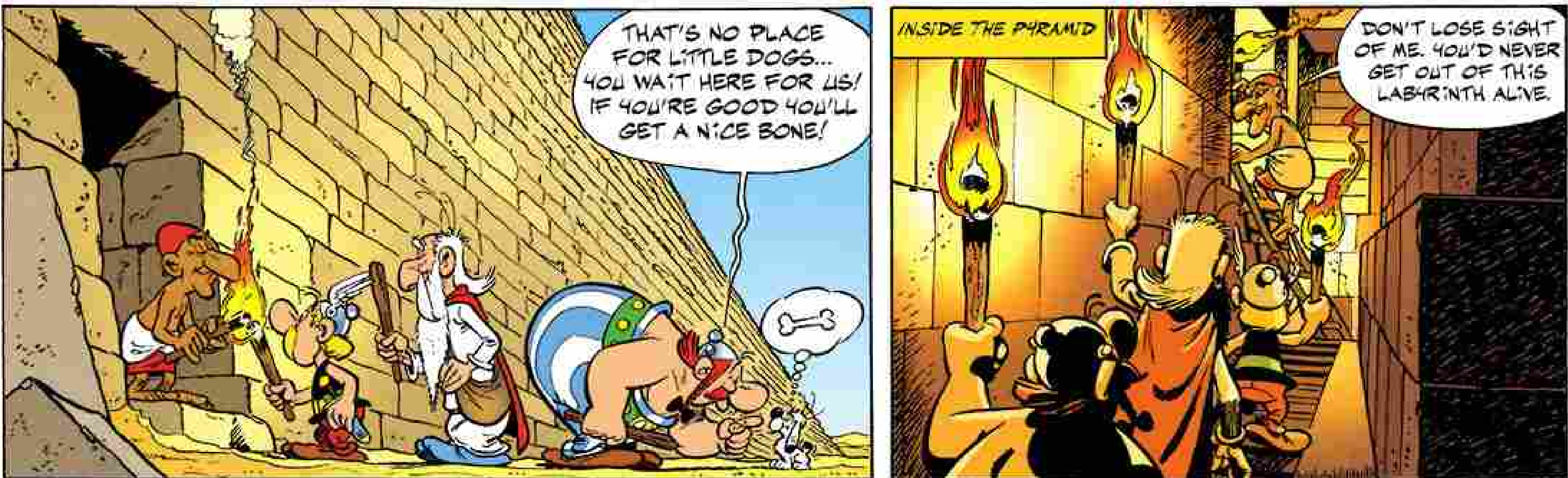
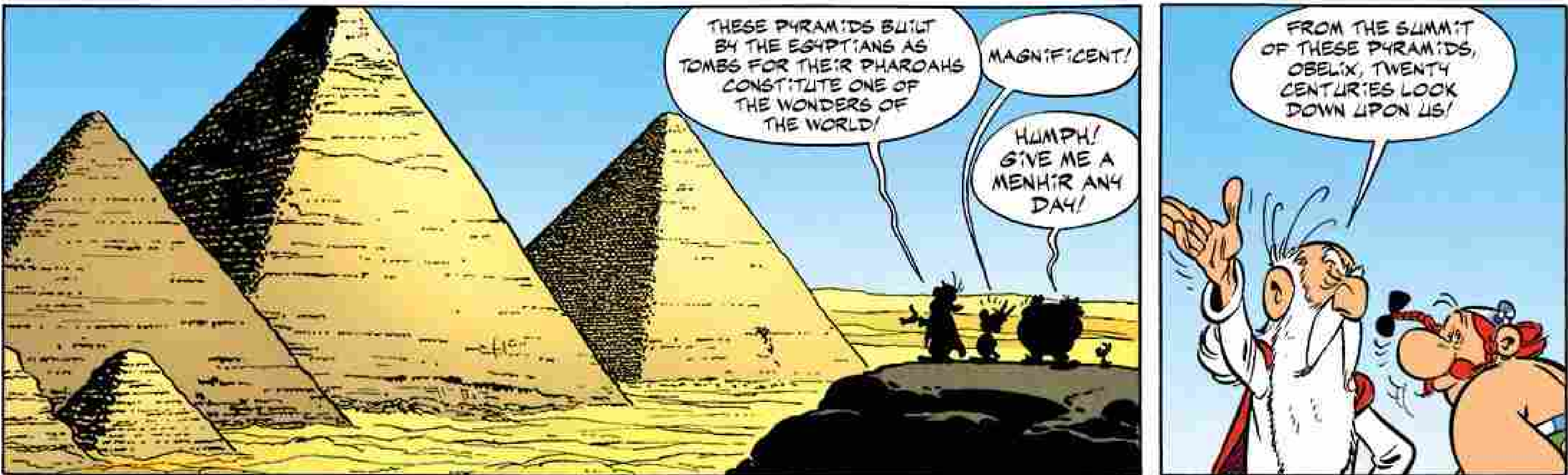


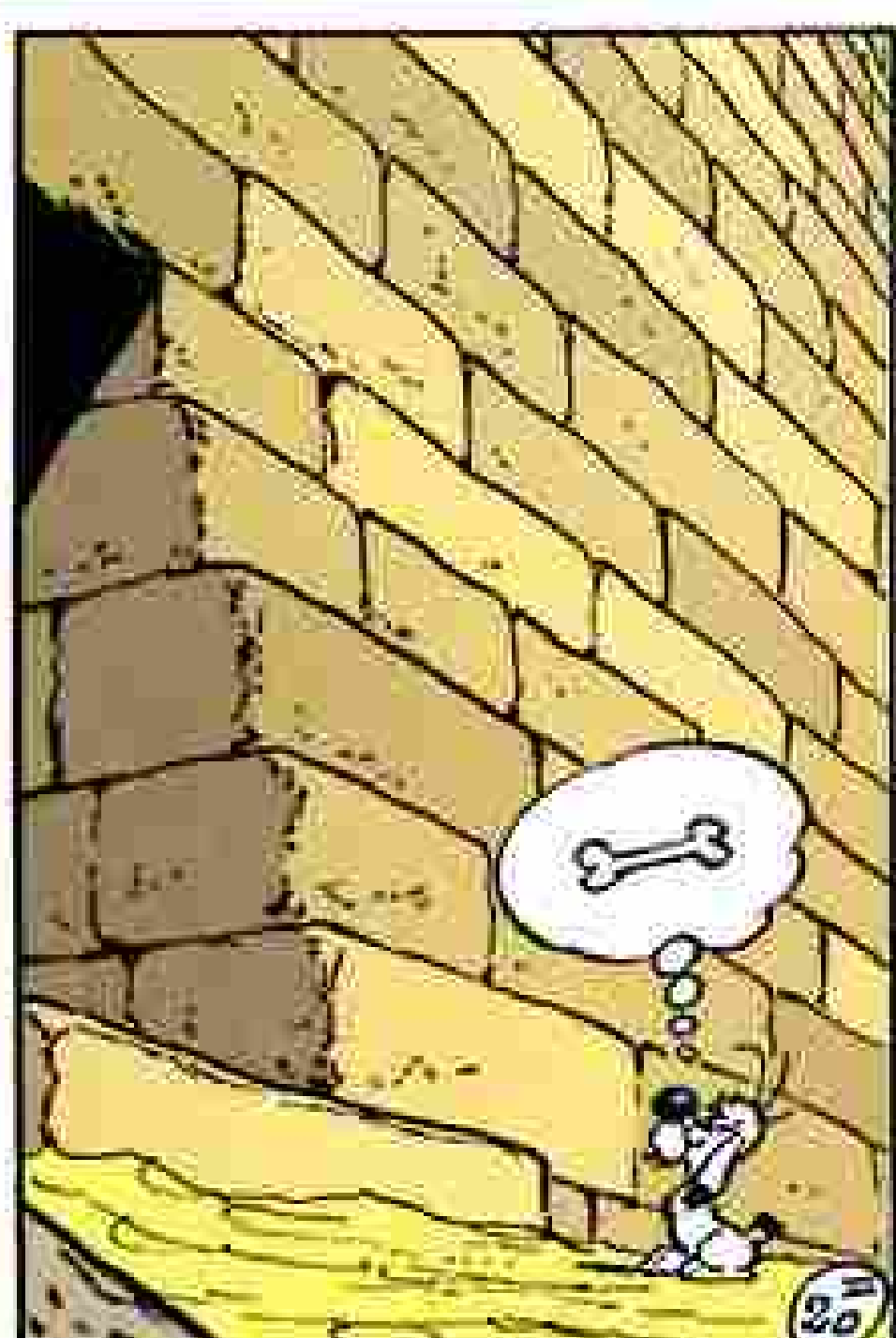
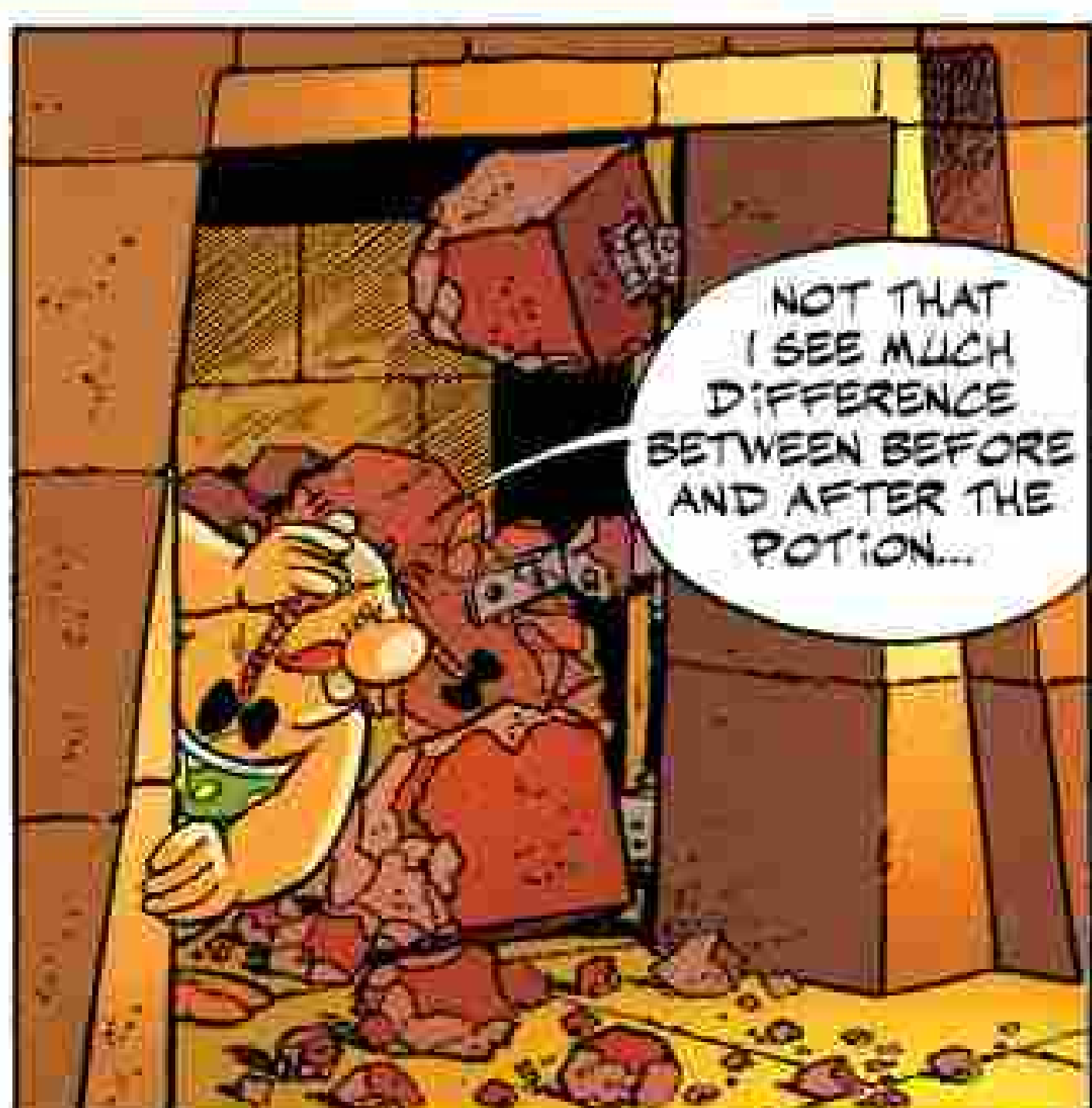
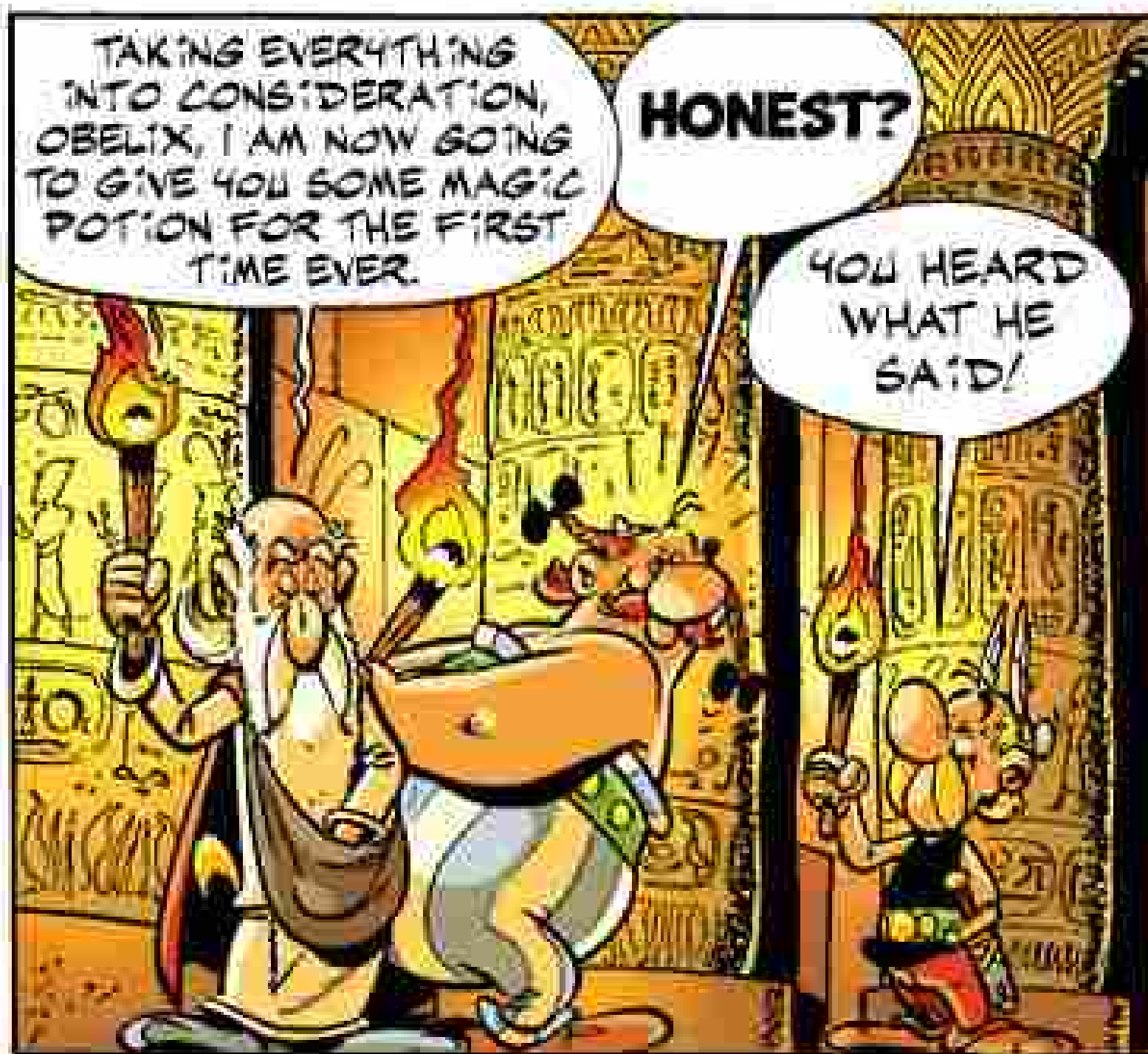
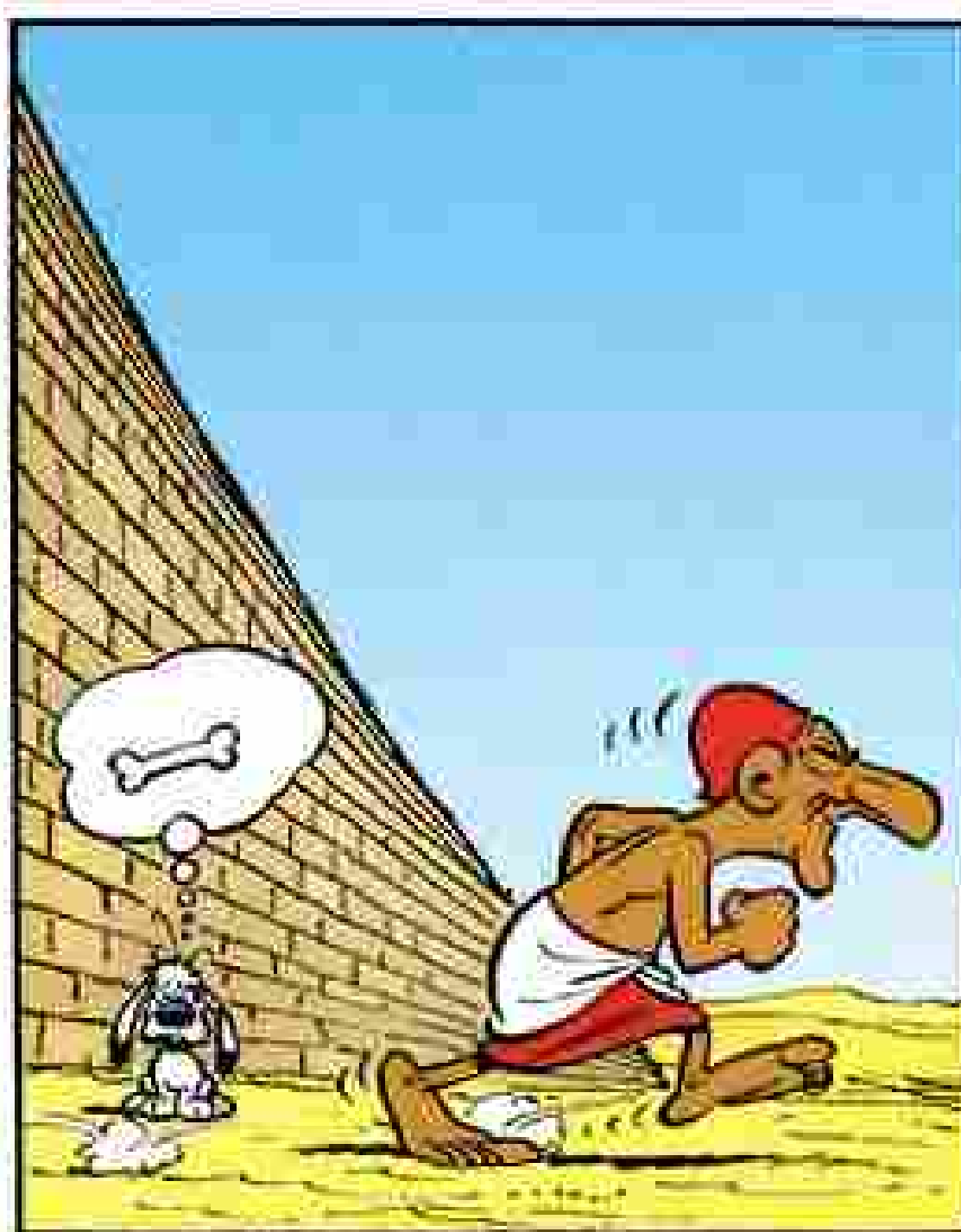


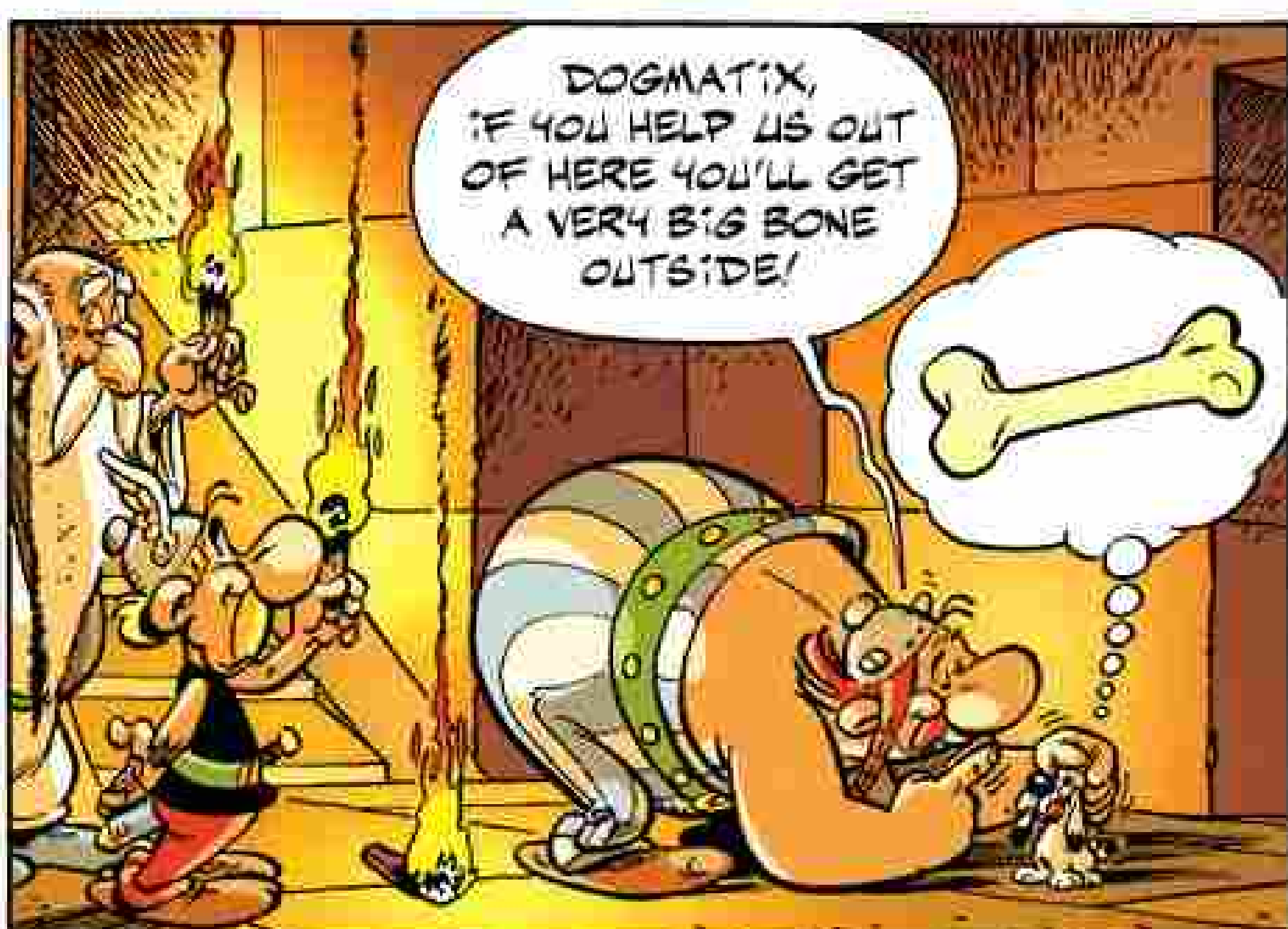
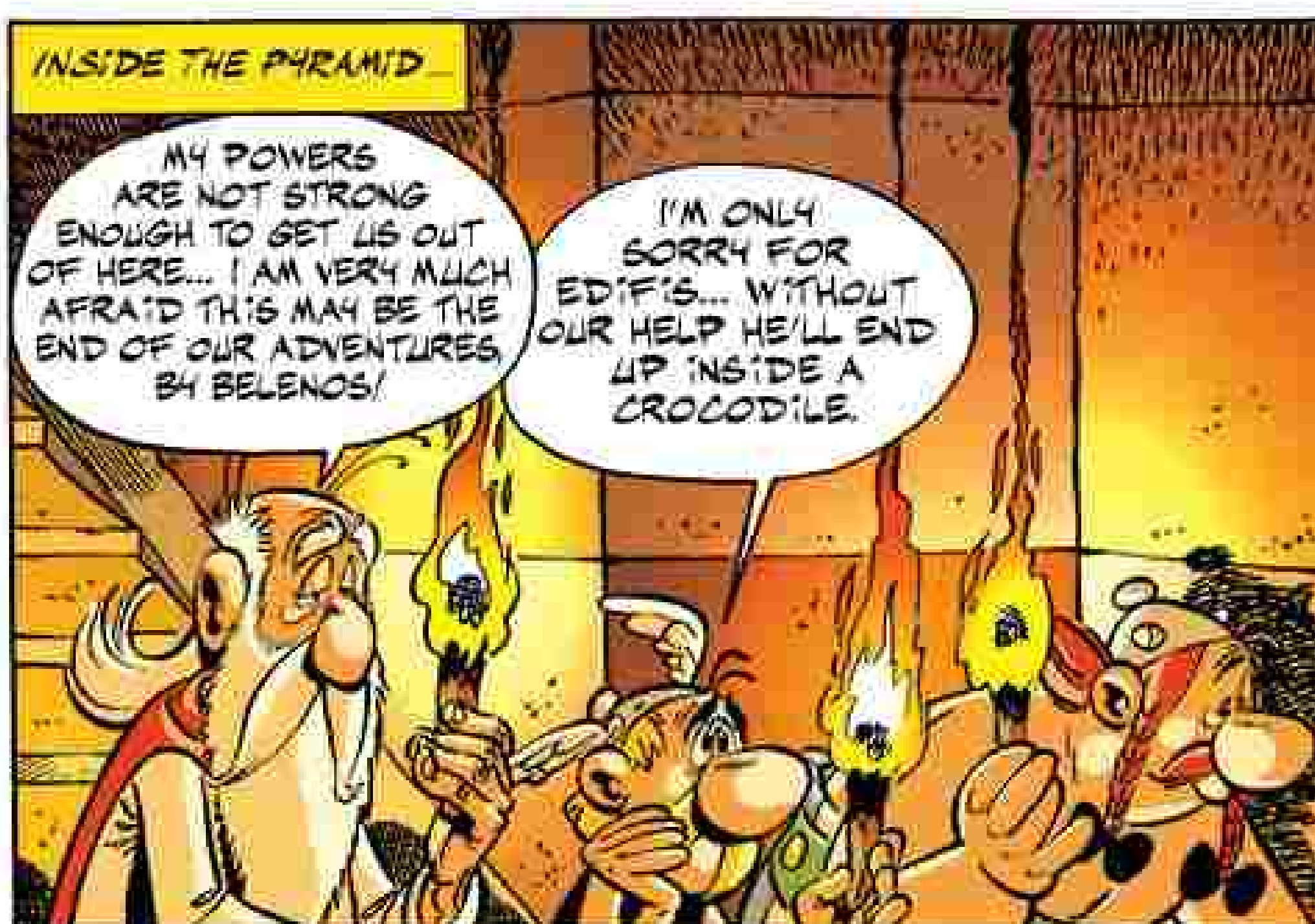


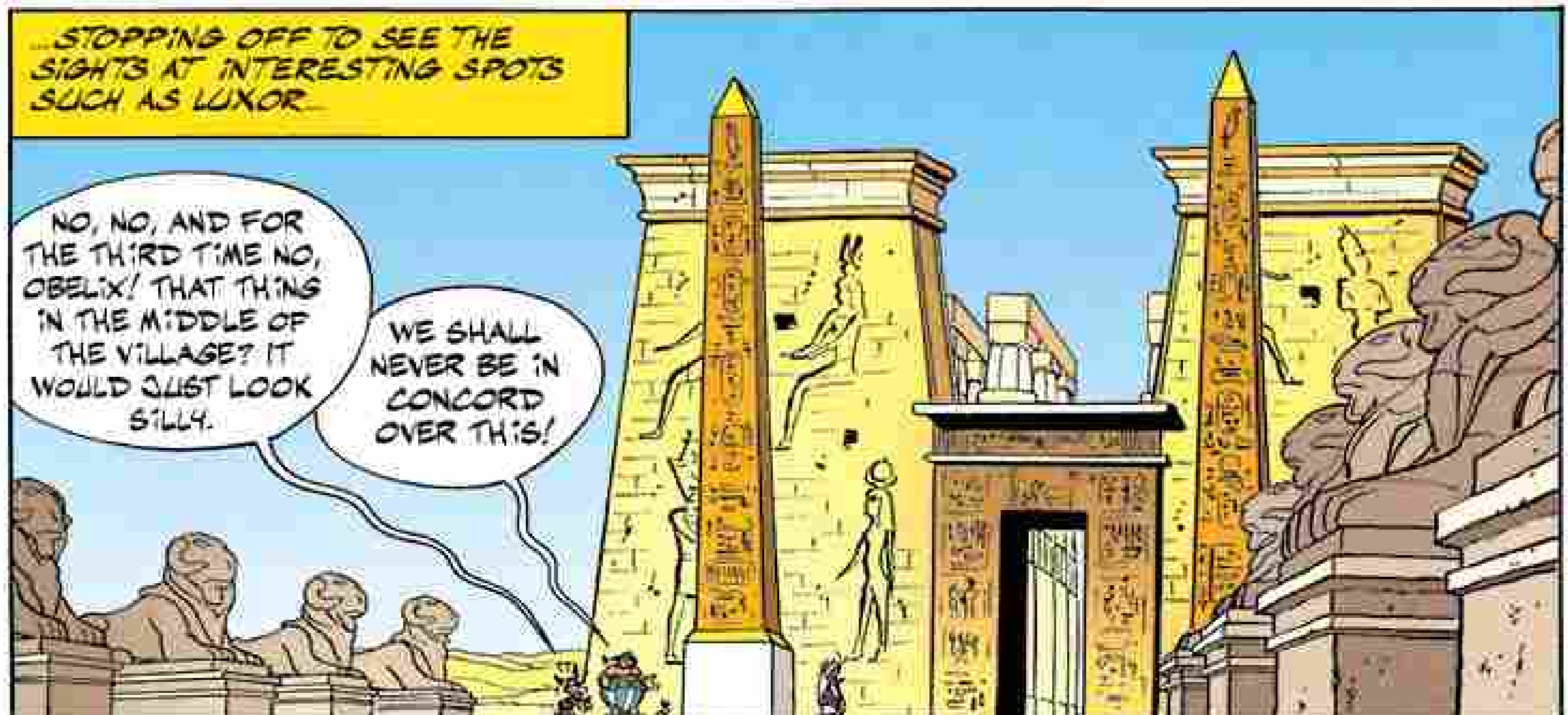
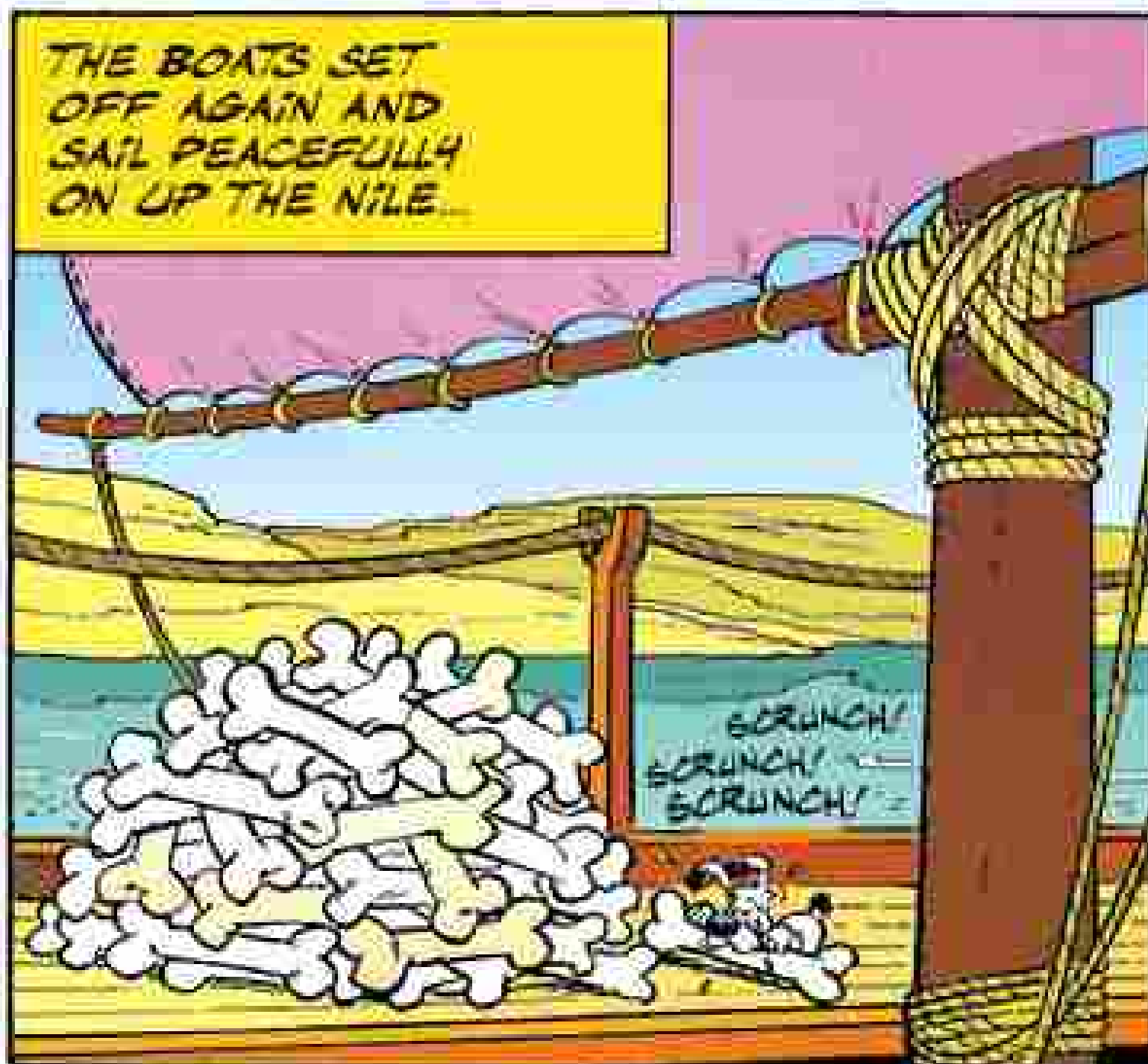
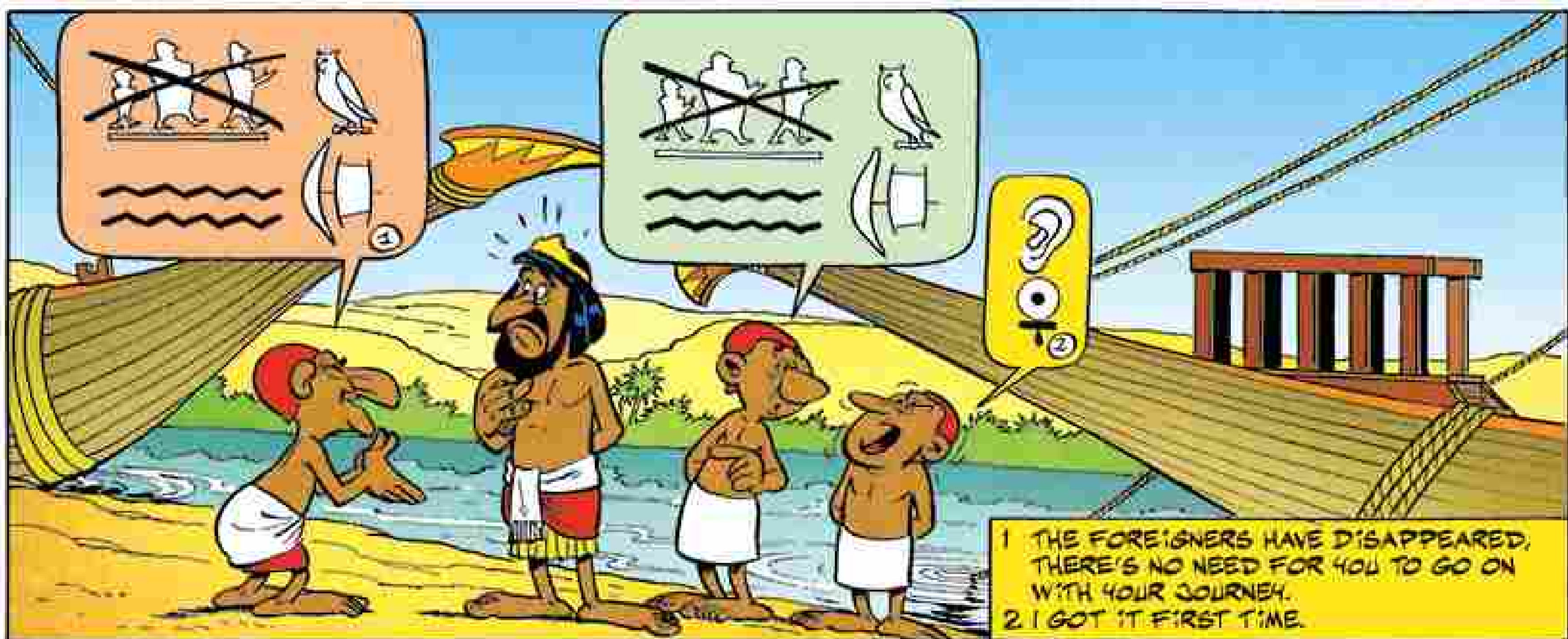












AFTER A VOYAGE OF MANY STADIA²

MY FRIENDS! BACK AT LAST!

AND WE'VE BROUGHT YOU ENOUGH STONE TO FINISH THE PALACE!

² STADIUM: ROMAN MEASURE OF ABOUT 184 METRES. AS THERE ARE 30.48 CENTIMETRES IN A FOOT AND 12 FEET IN AN ALEXANDRINE, IT IS EASY TO WORK OUT THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 50% ALEXANDRINES IN ONE STADIUM.

THE LABOURERS WELL DOSED WITH MAGIC POTION, WORK SWIFTLY.

IF I WASN'T HERE TO CORRECT THESE PLANS...

I'VE JUST HEARD THAT CLEOPATRA'S COMING TO VISIT THE BUILDING SITE!

SURE ENOUGH...

OH, DON'T STOP! I'M JUST PAYING A QUIET VISIT, INCOGNITO. DO GO ON!

THERE'S NO DENYING IT, SHE DOES HAVE A PRETTY NOSE!

A VERY PRETTY NOSE!

DID YOU SEE HER NOSE, DOGMATIX?

MEANWHILE, IN ARTIFIS'S HOUSE...

AN IDEA! I NEED AN IDEA!

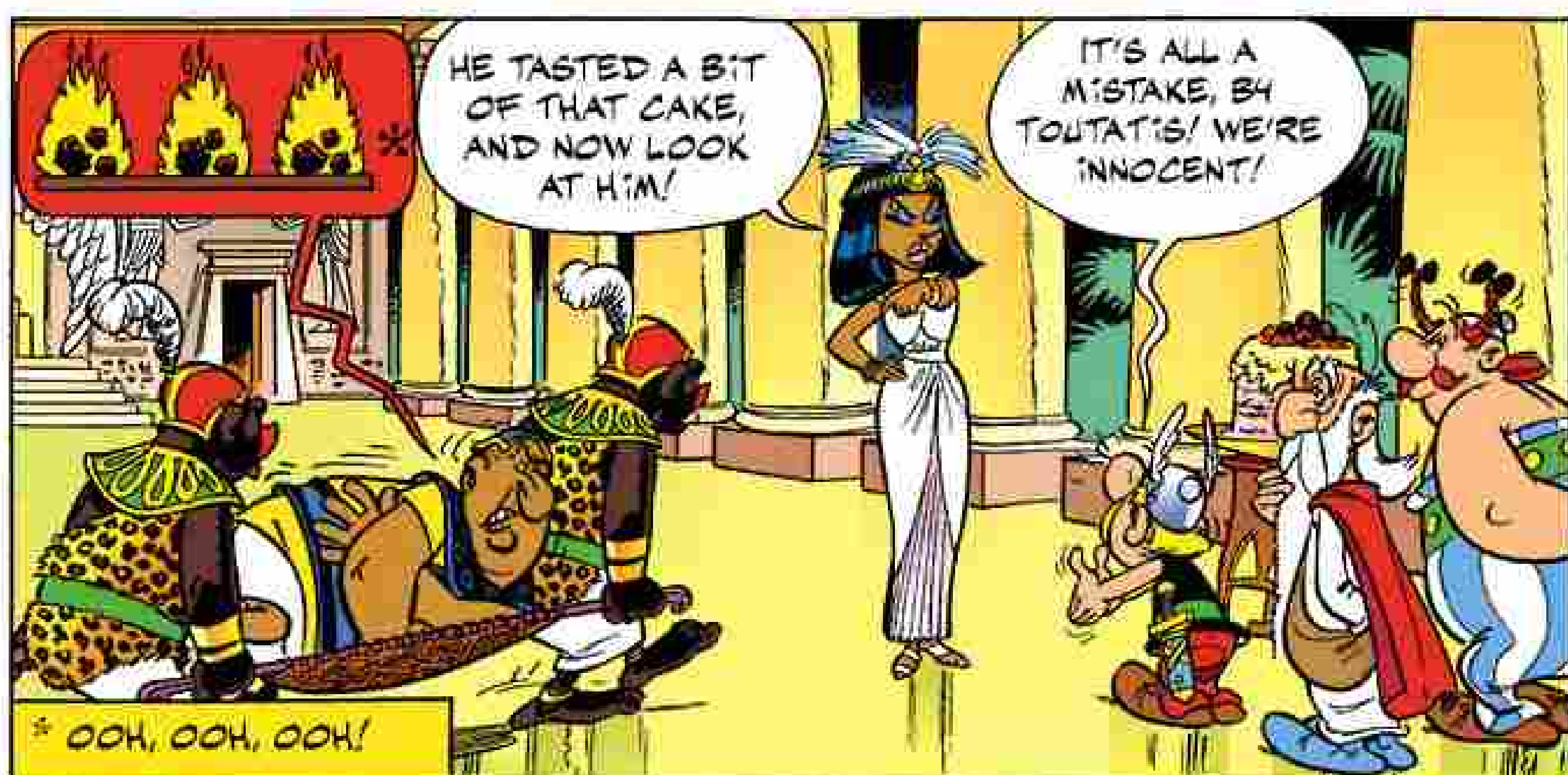
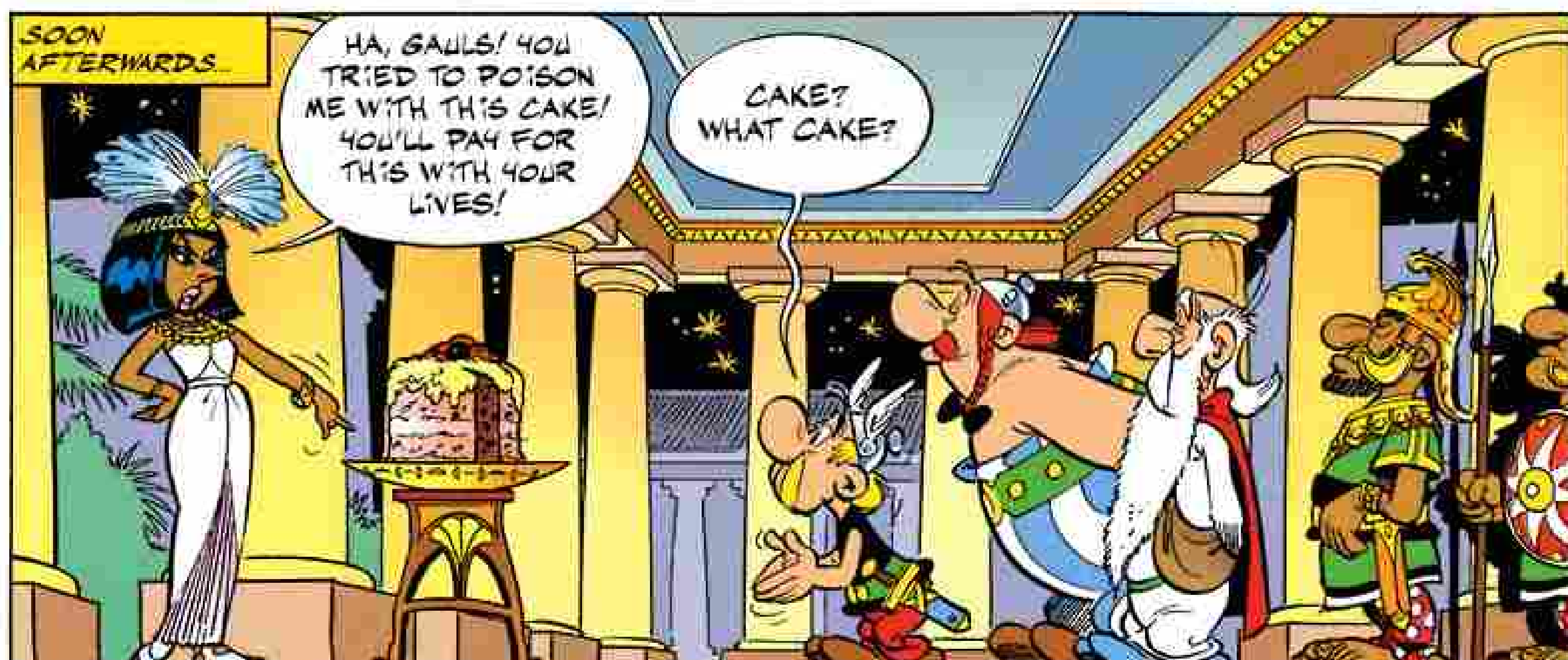
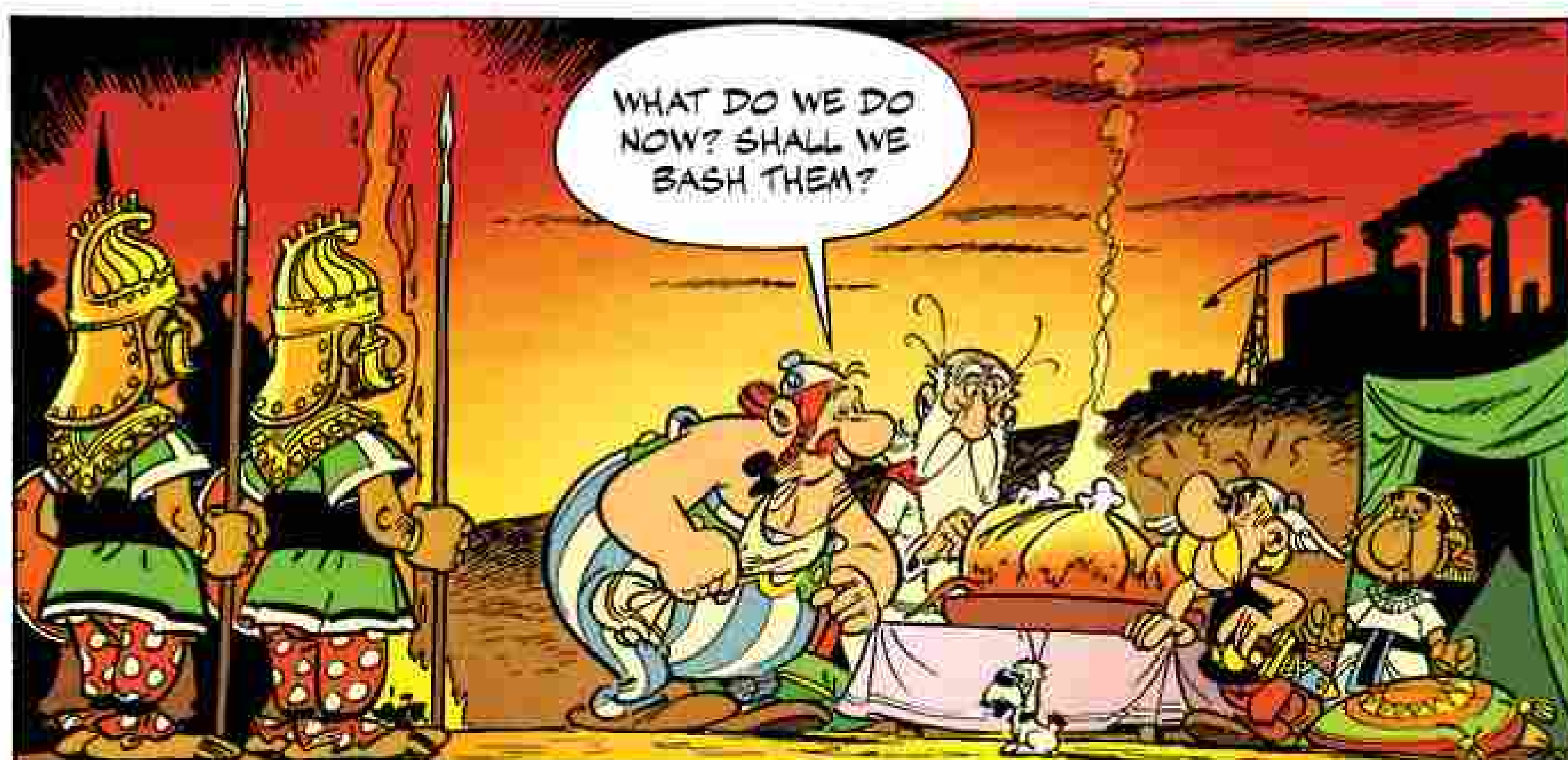
HELP ME! AND FOR THE LAST TIME GO AND SHAVE YOUR HEAD!

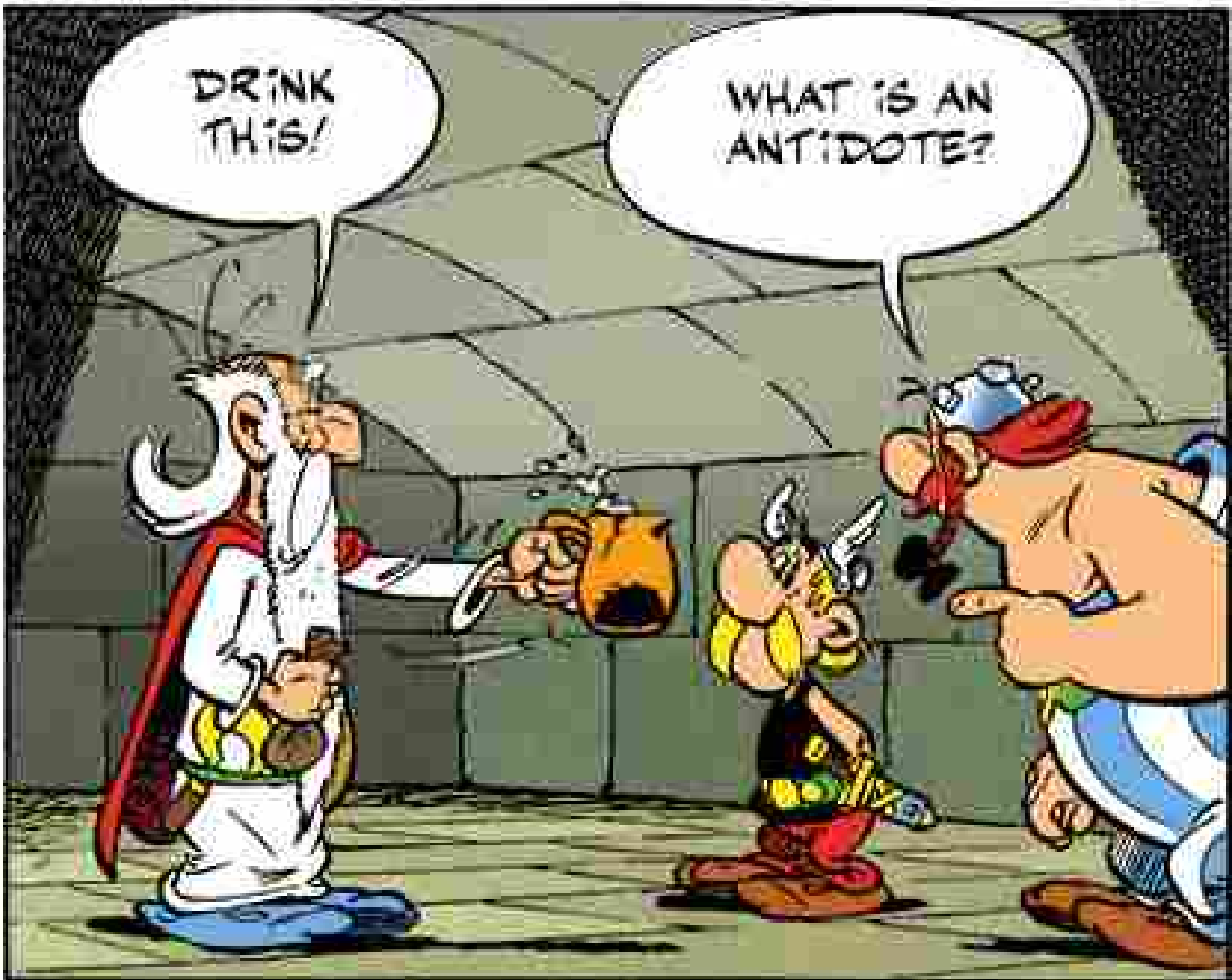
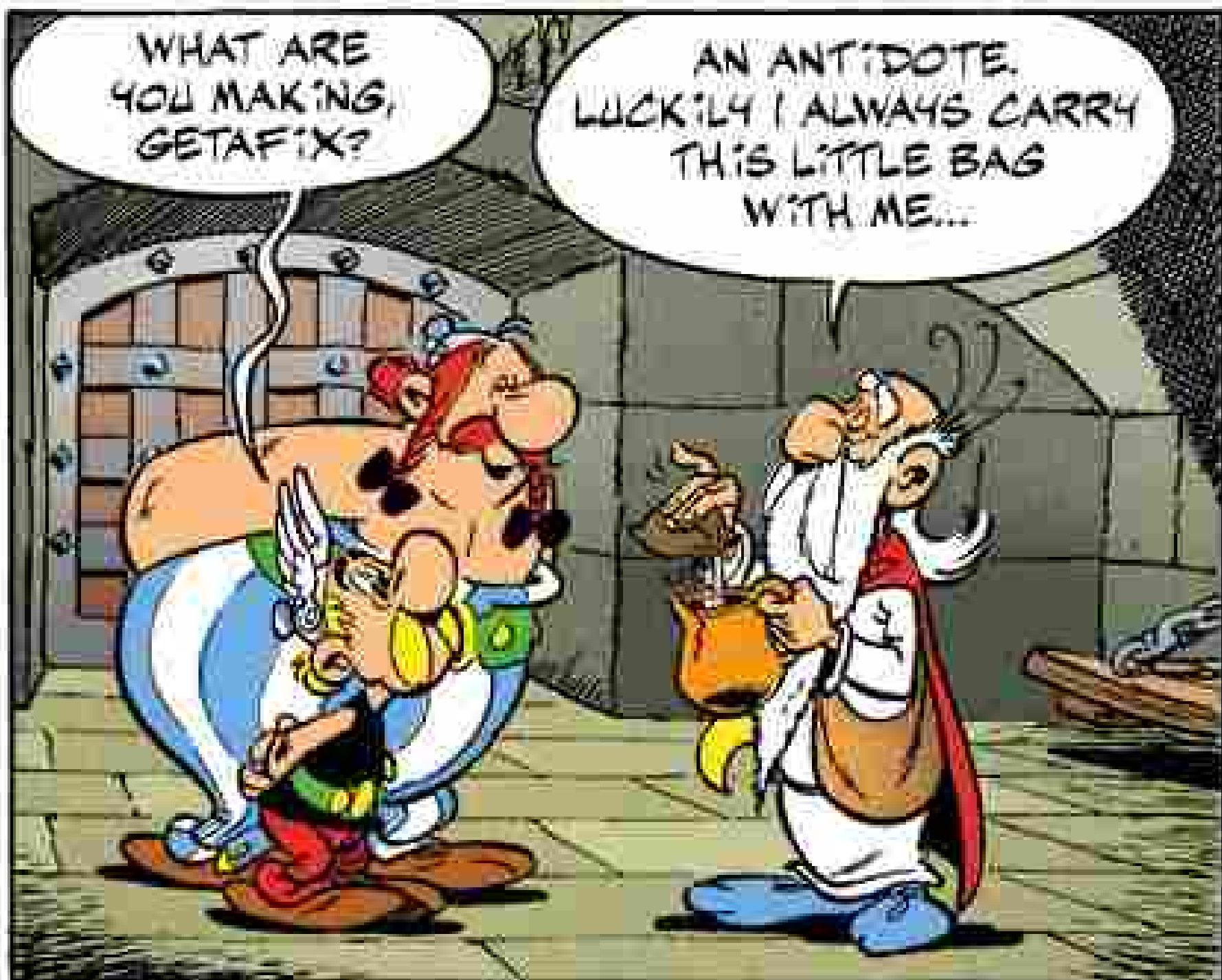
I CAN'T, MASTER. I MADE A VOW...

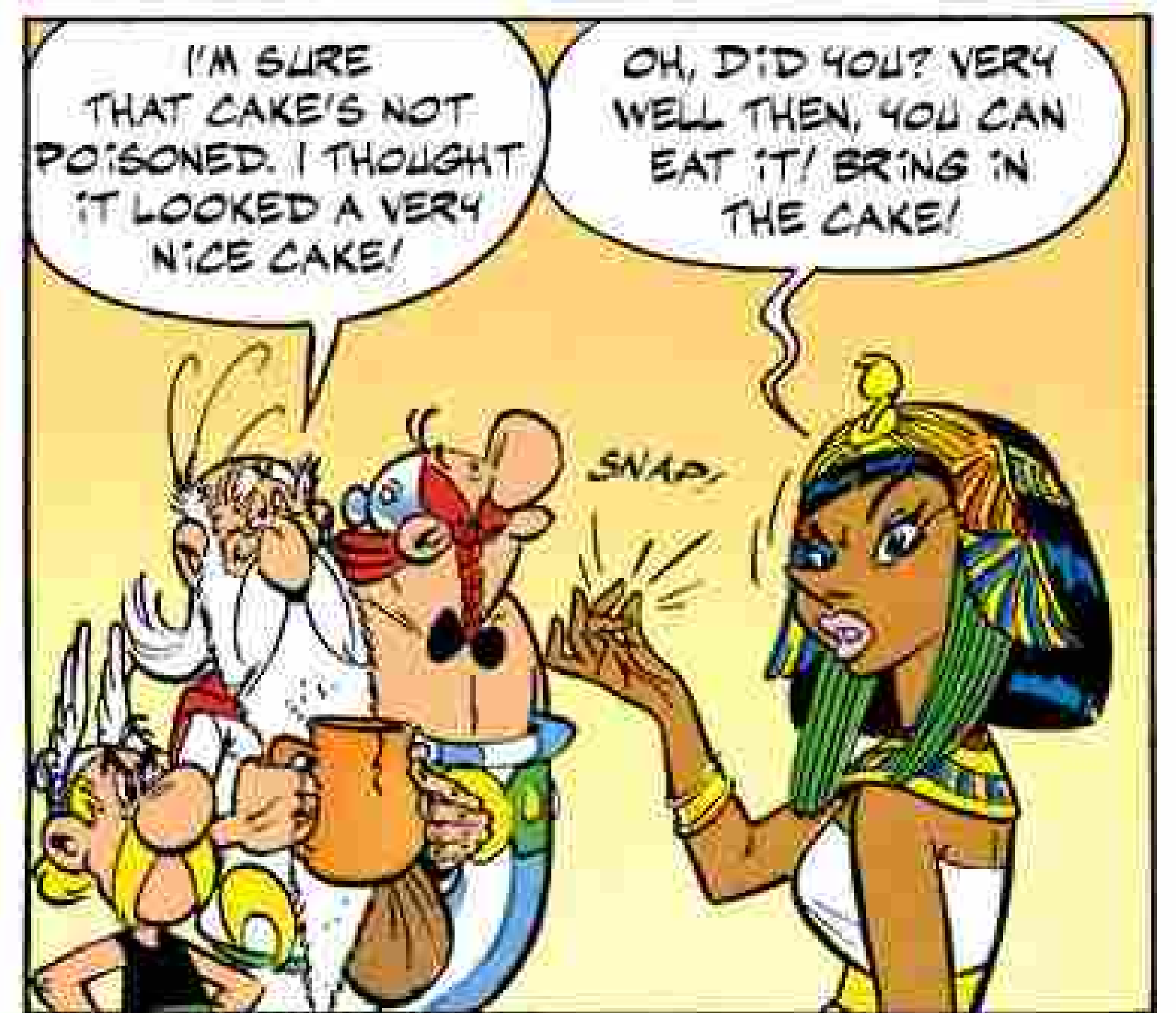
I'VE GOT IT! IT'S A PIECE OF CAKE!

SLAP!

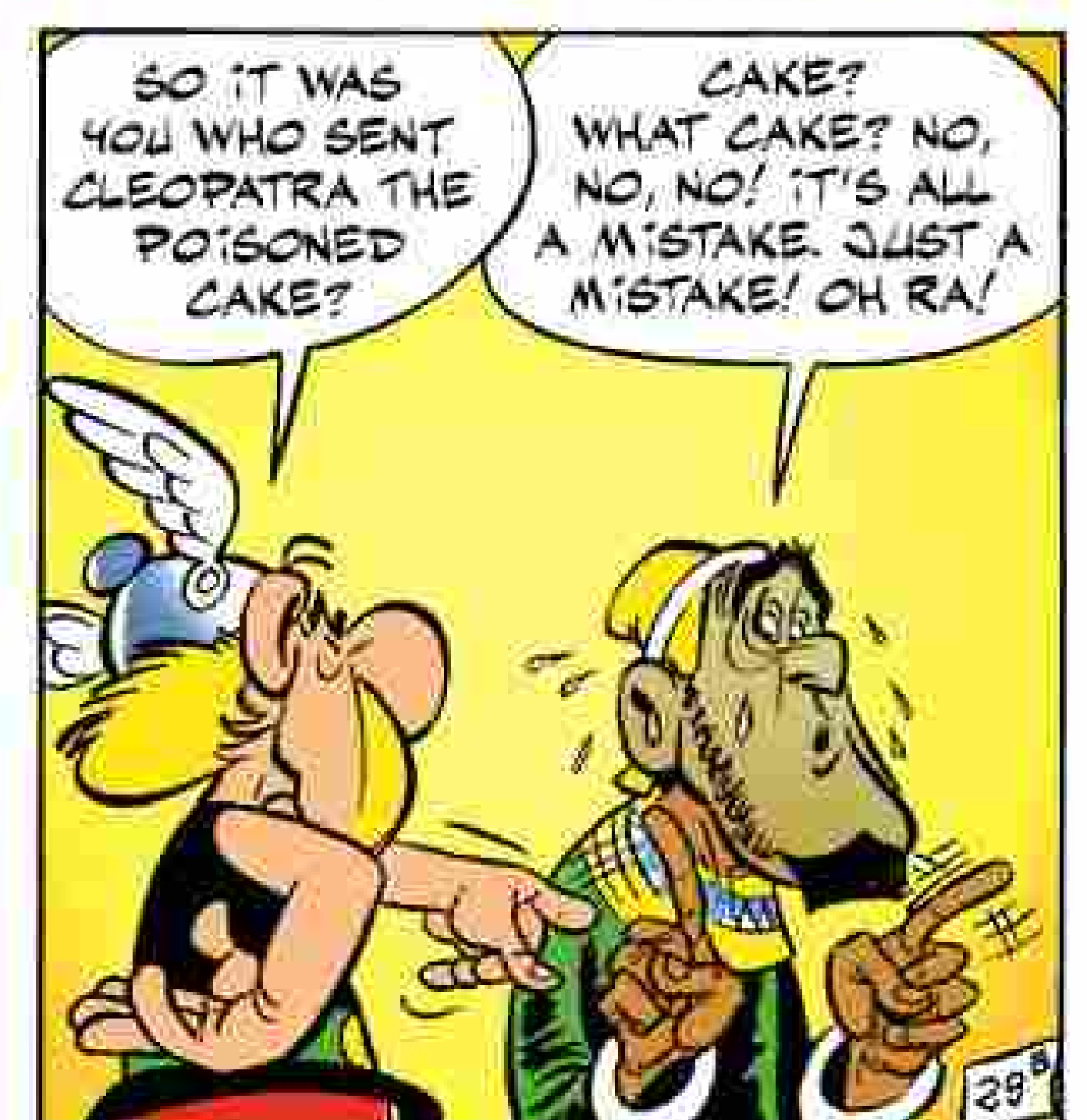
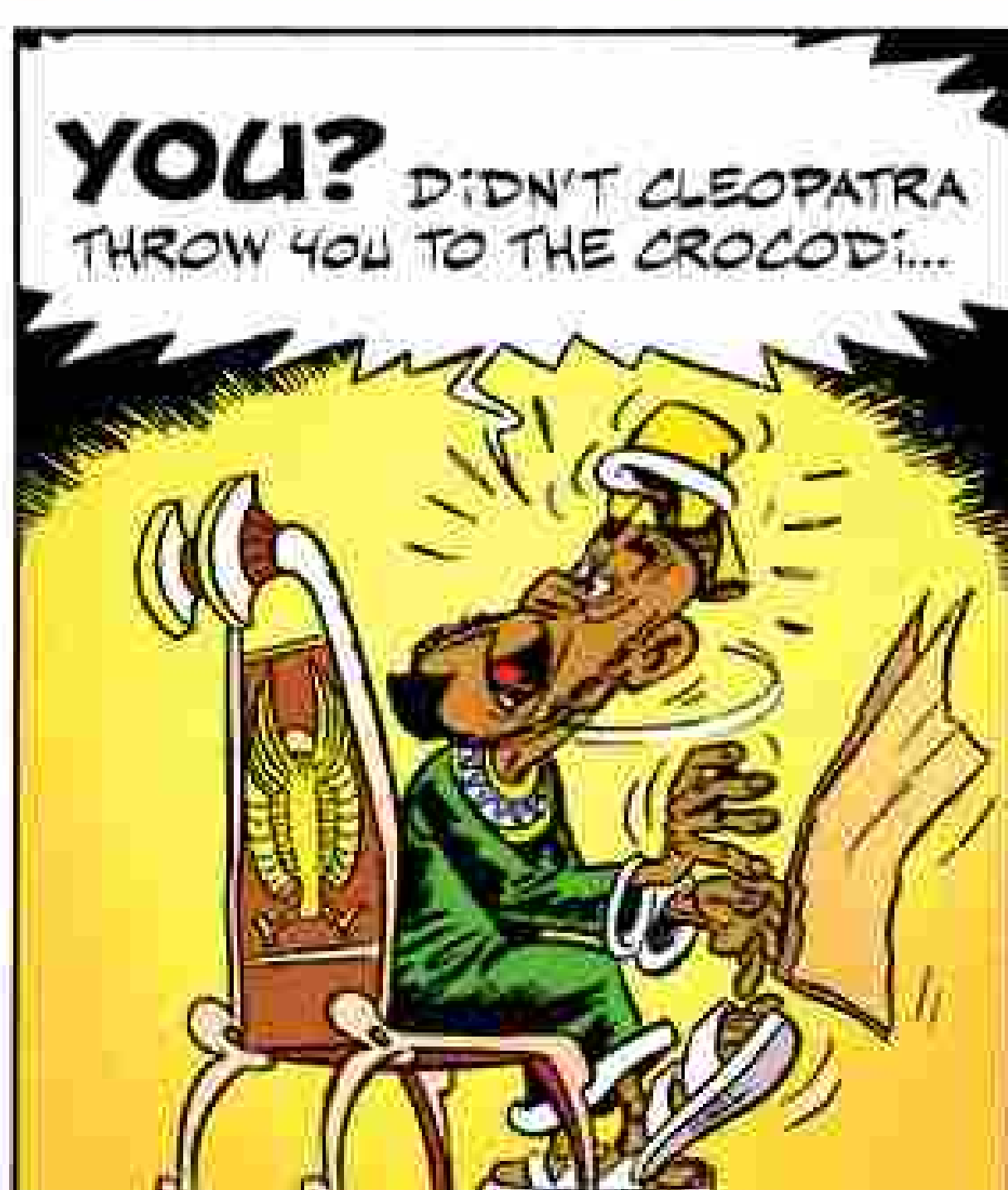
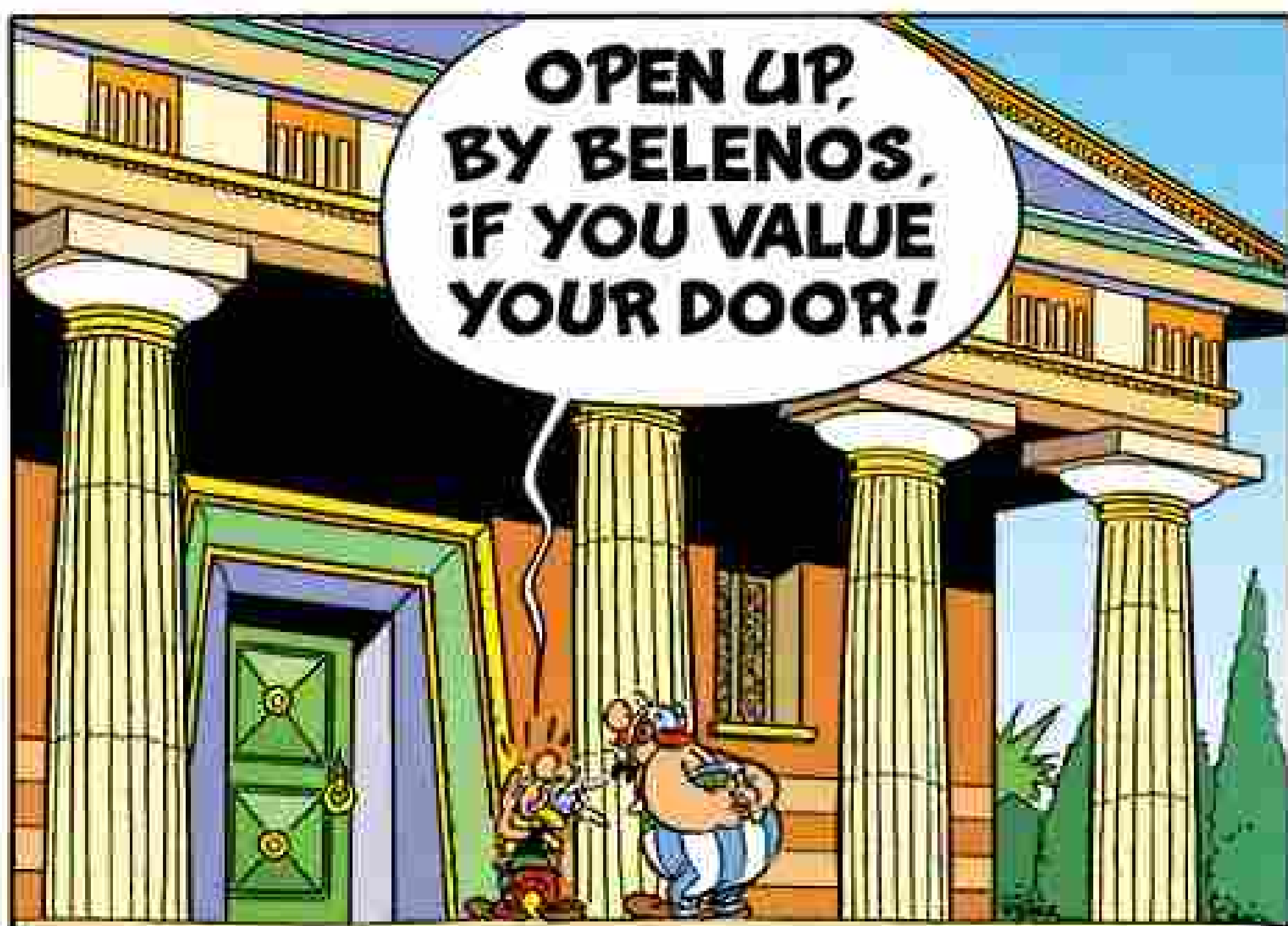


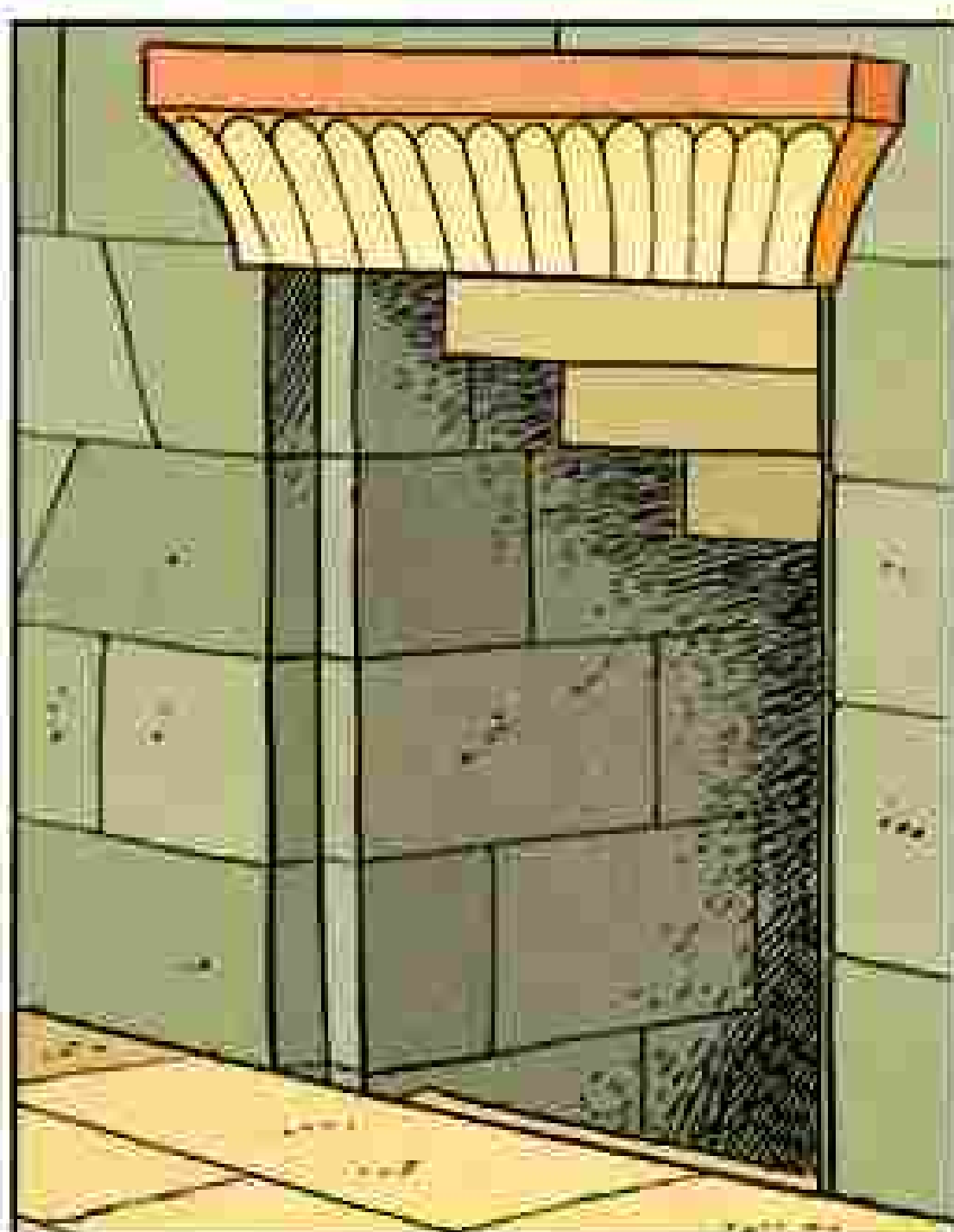
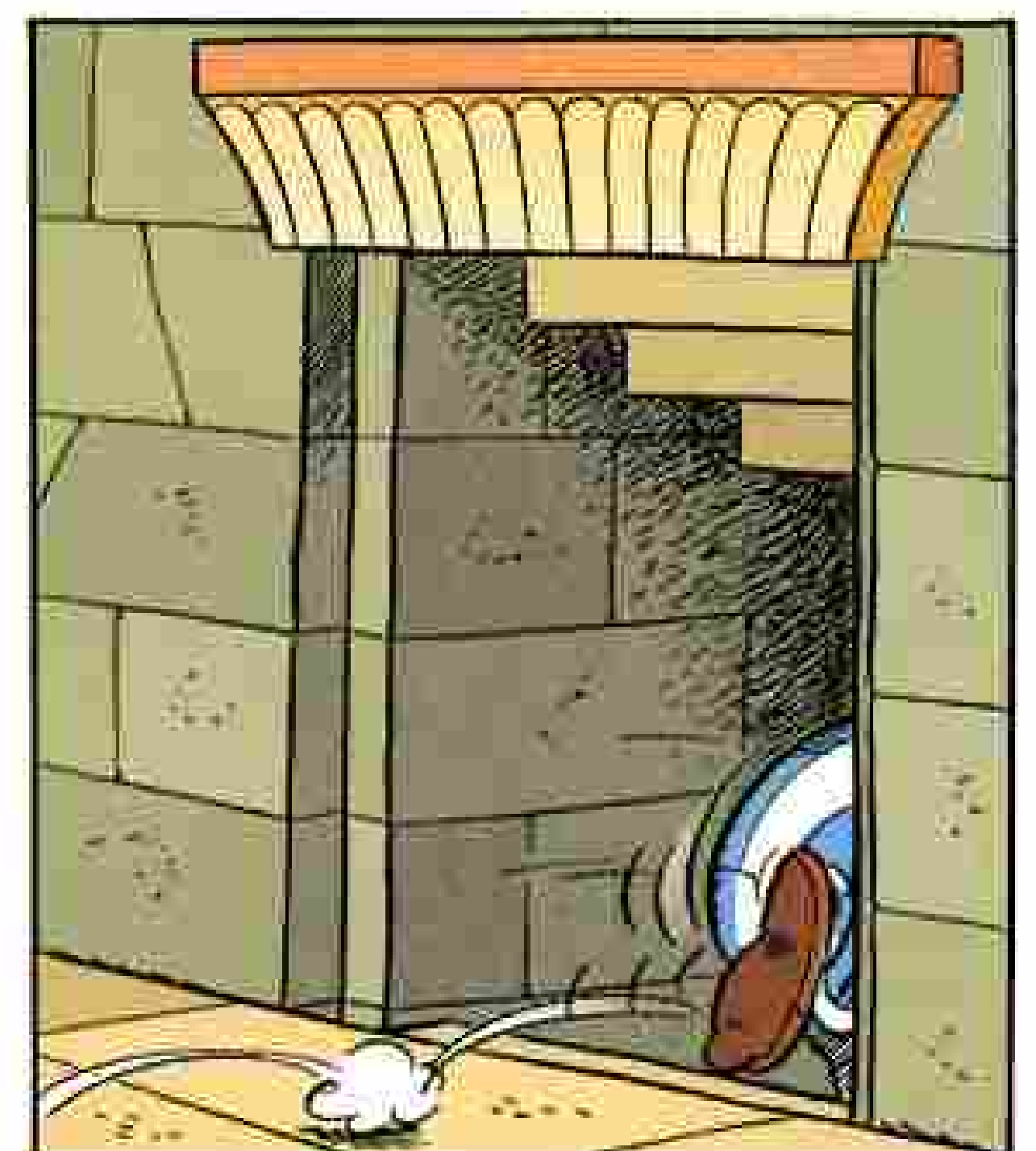


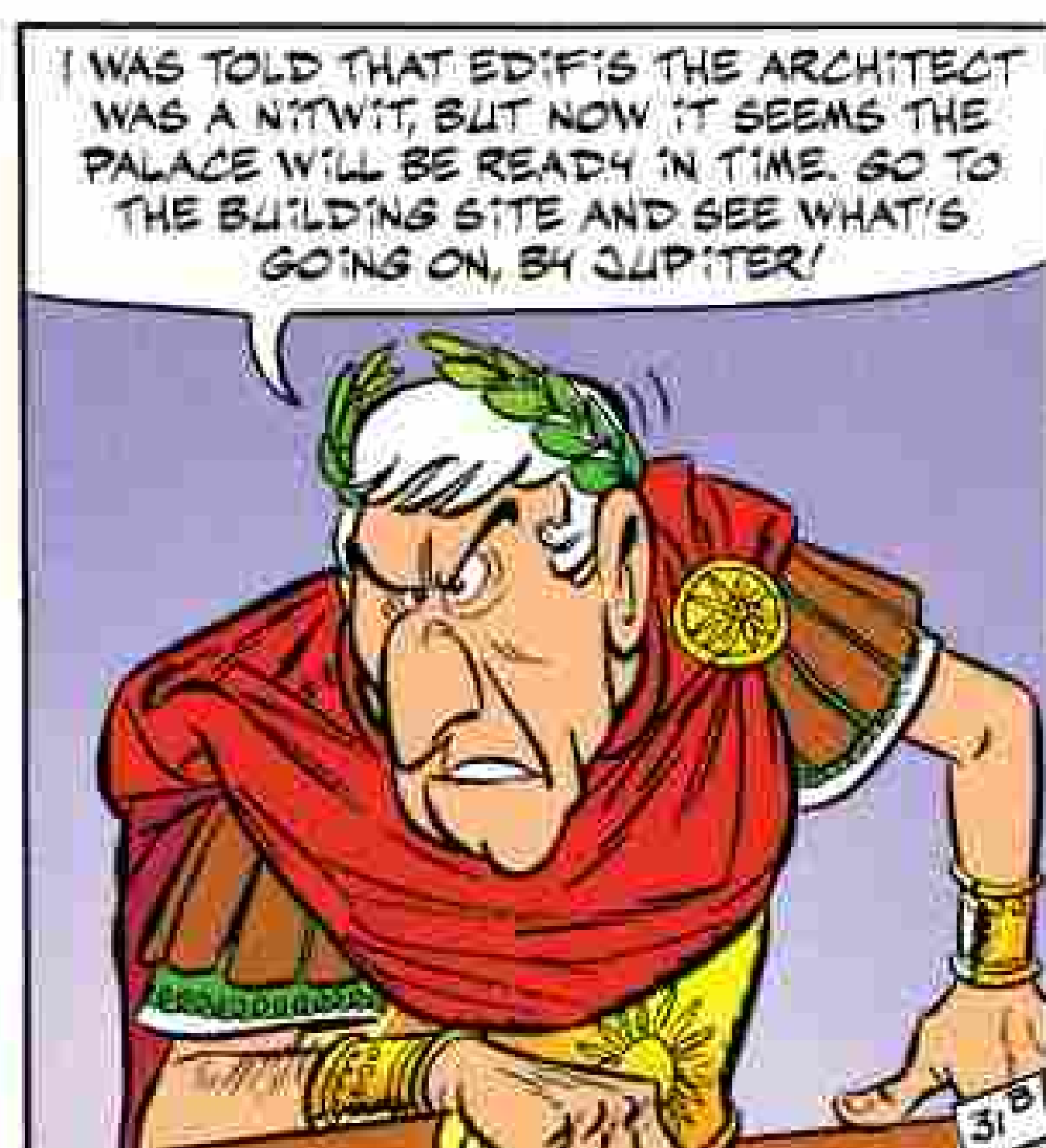
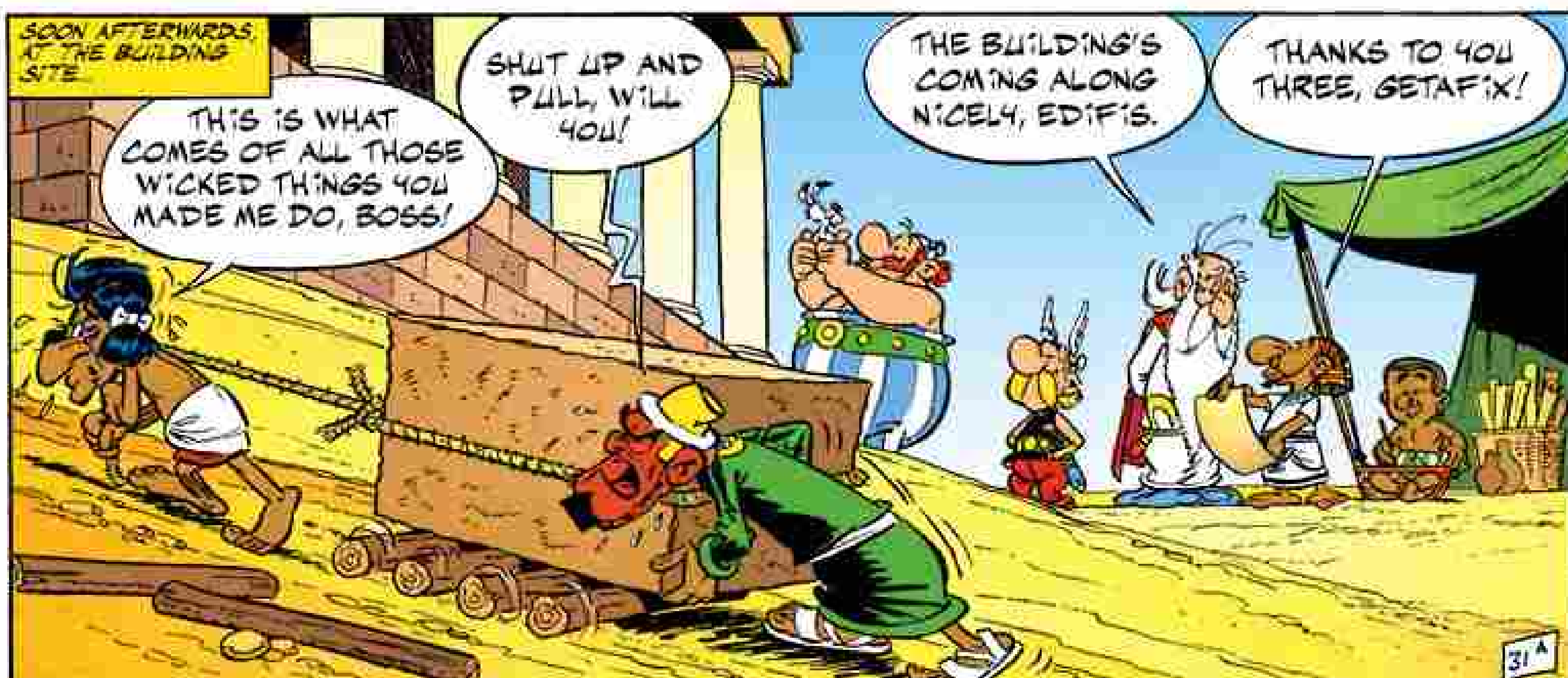


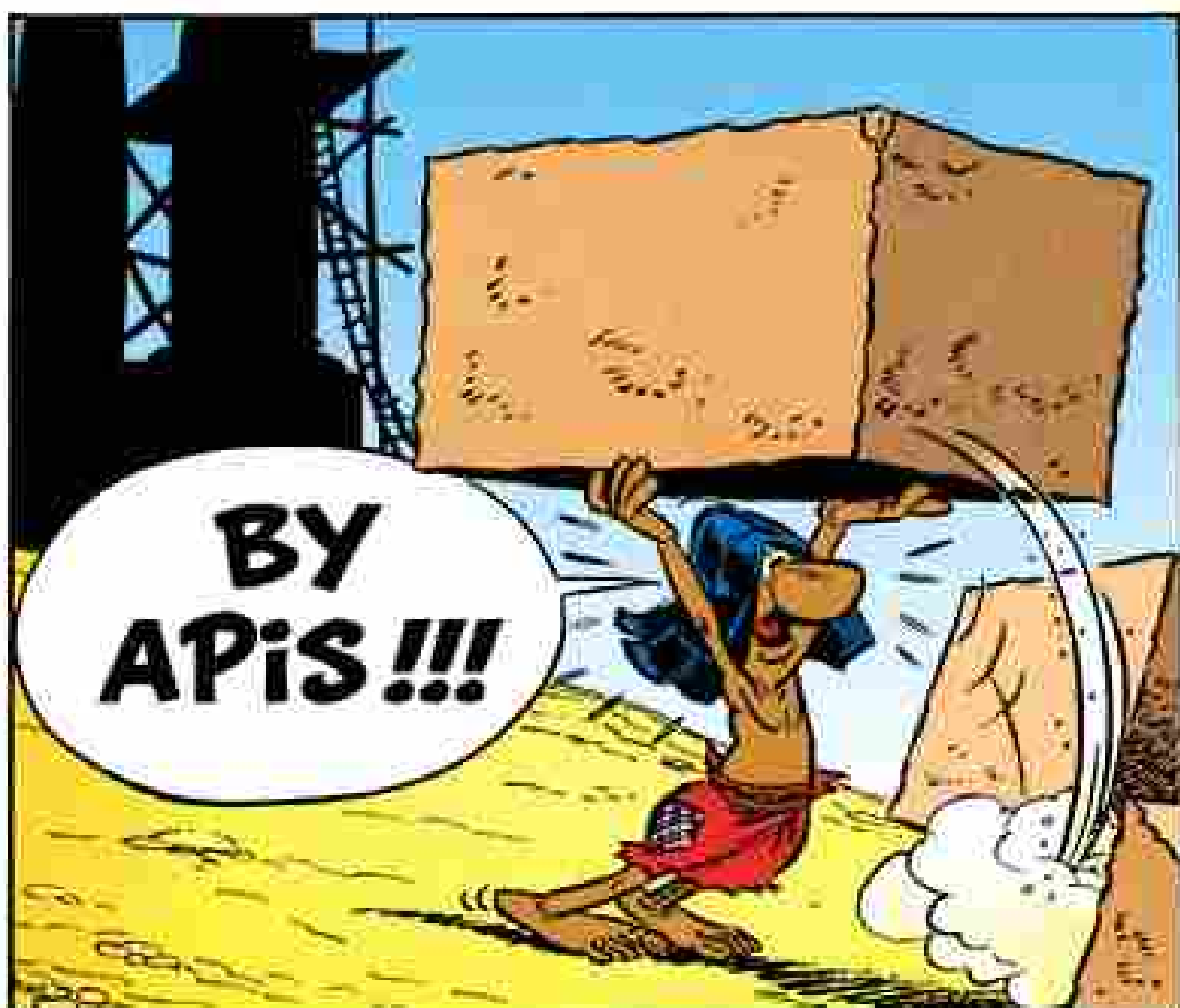
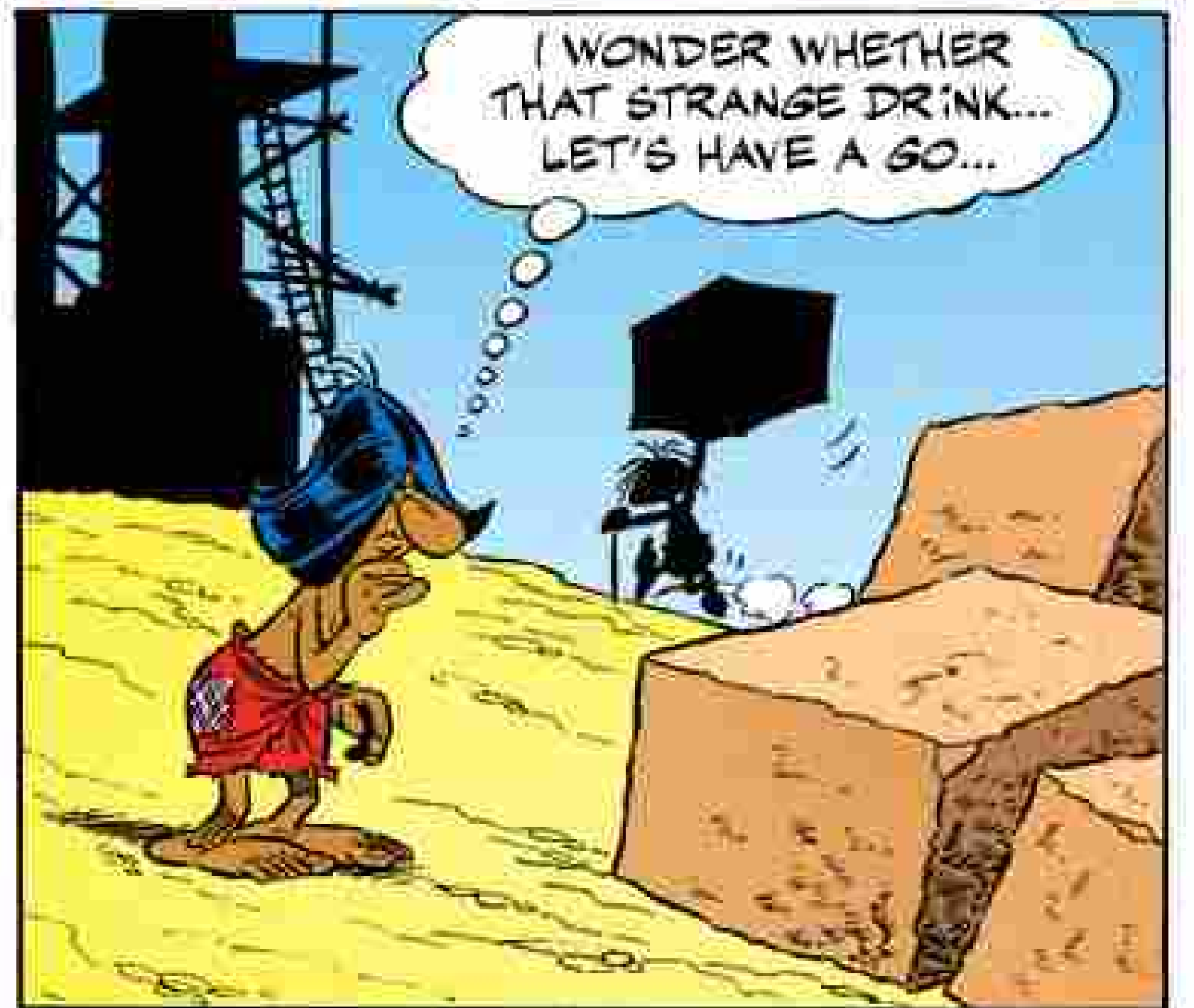
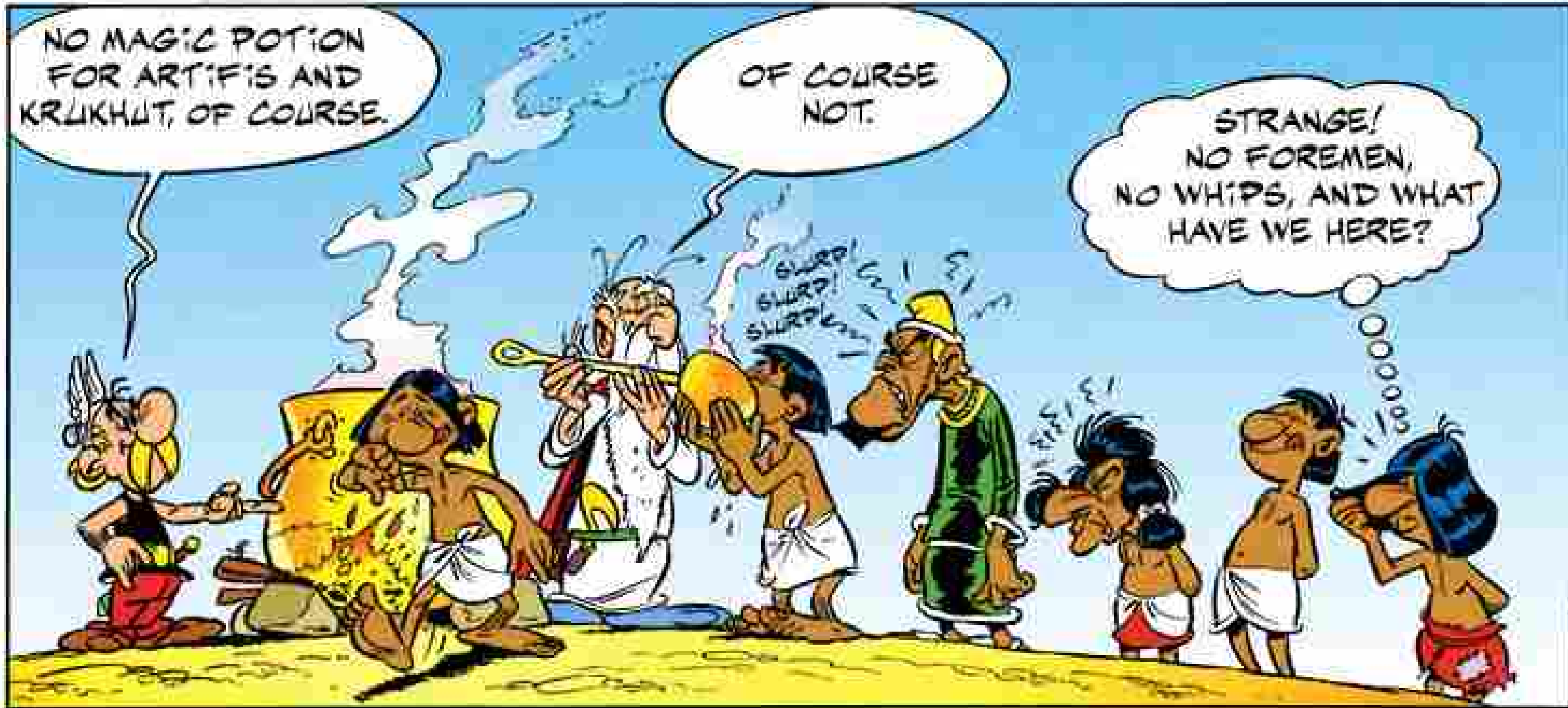
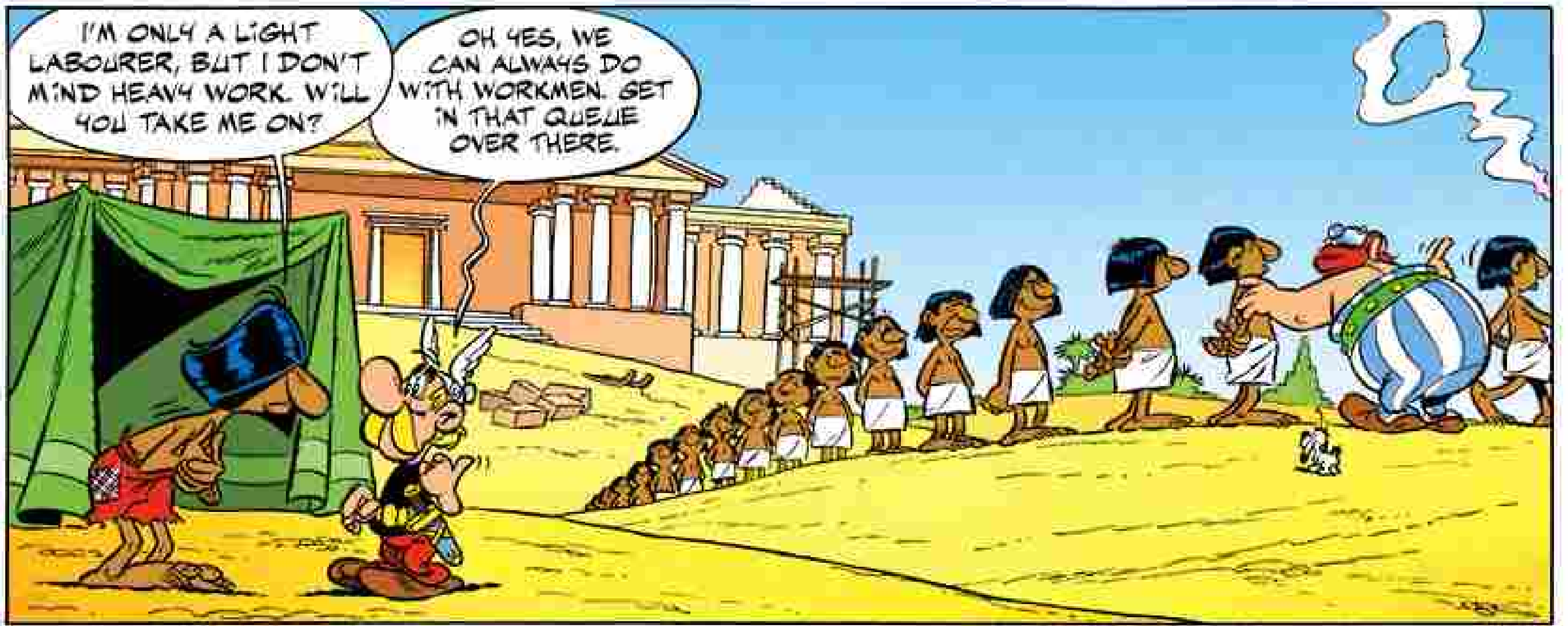


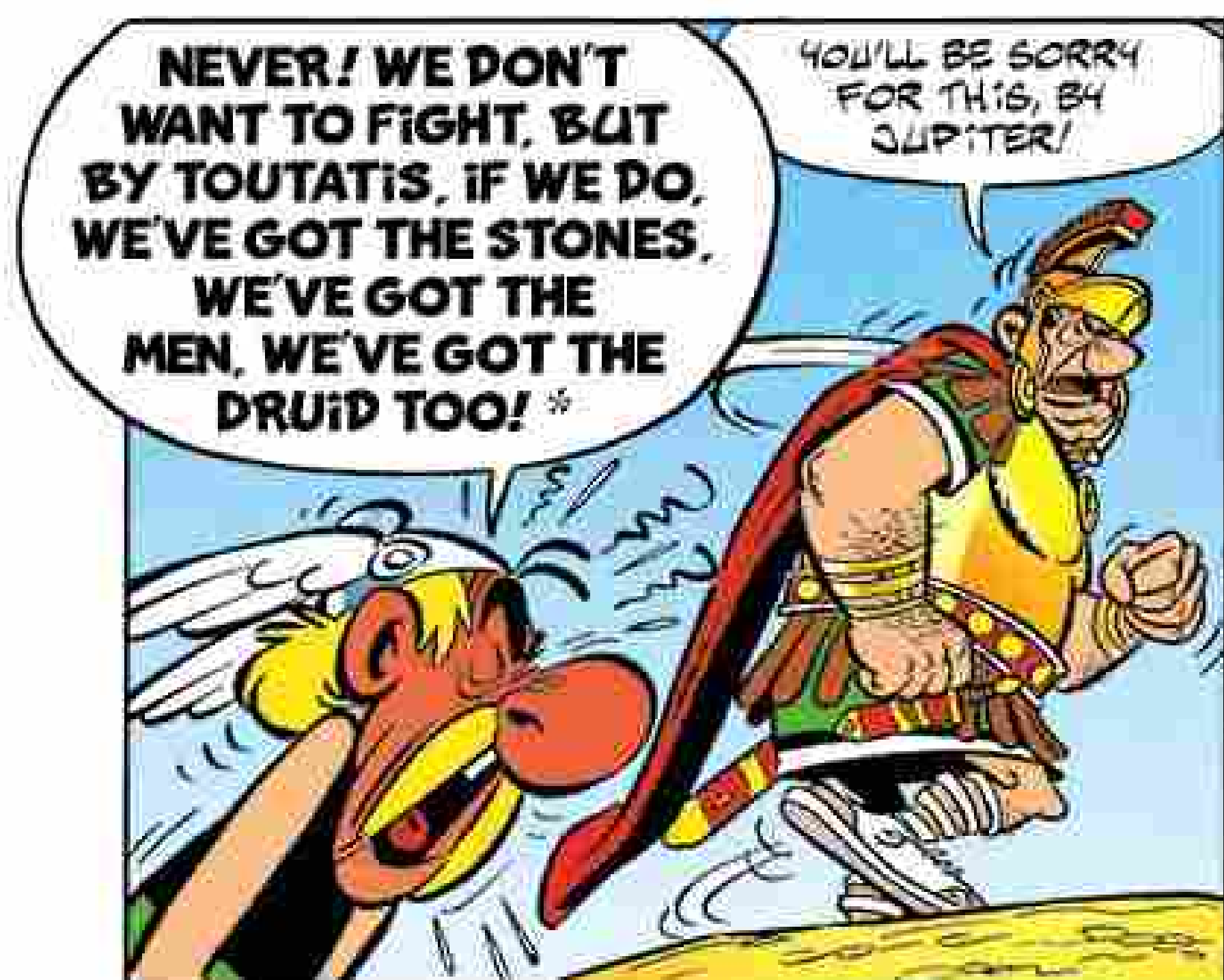
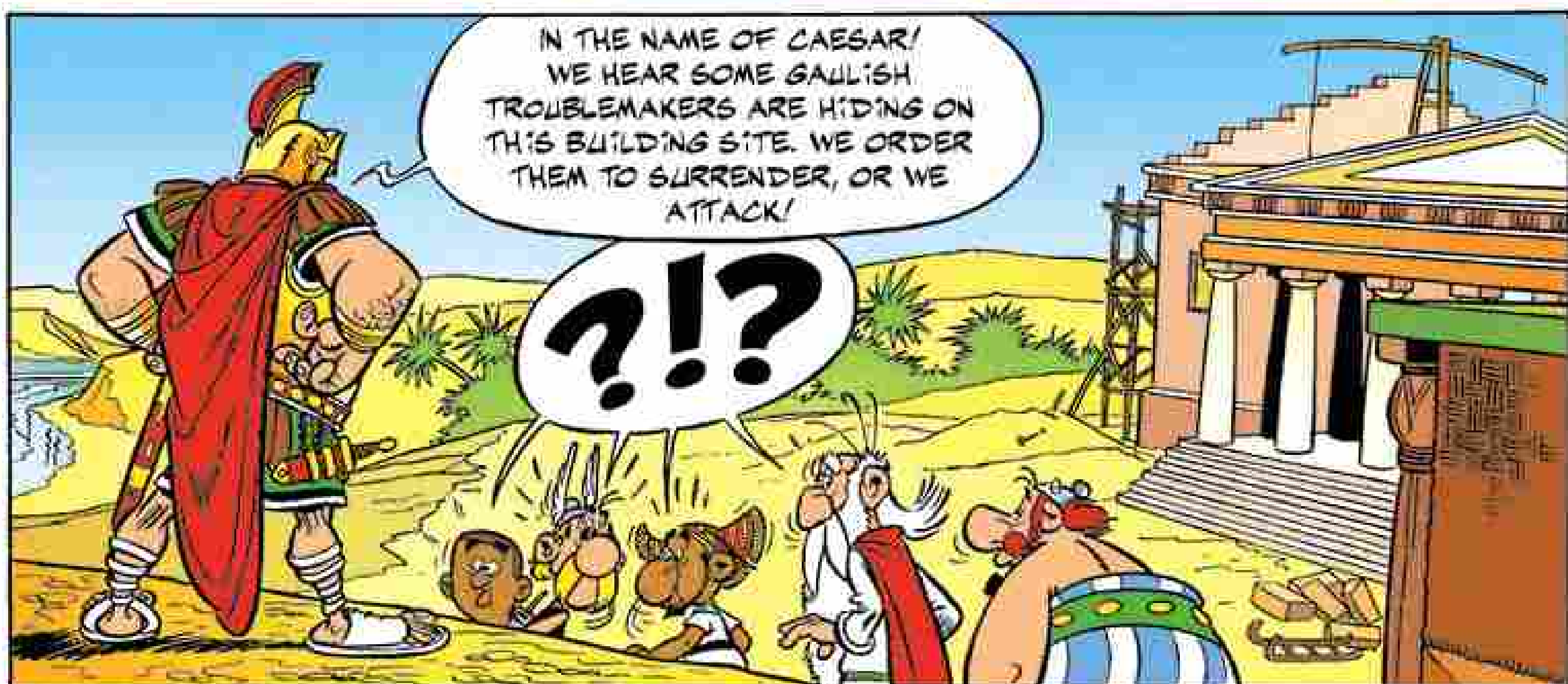
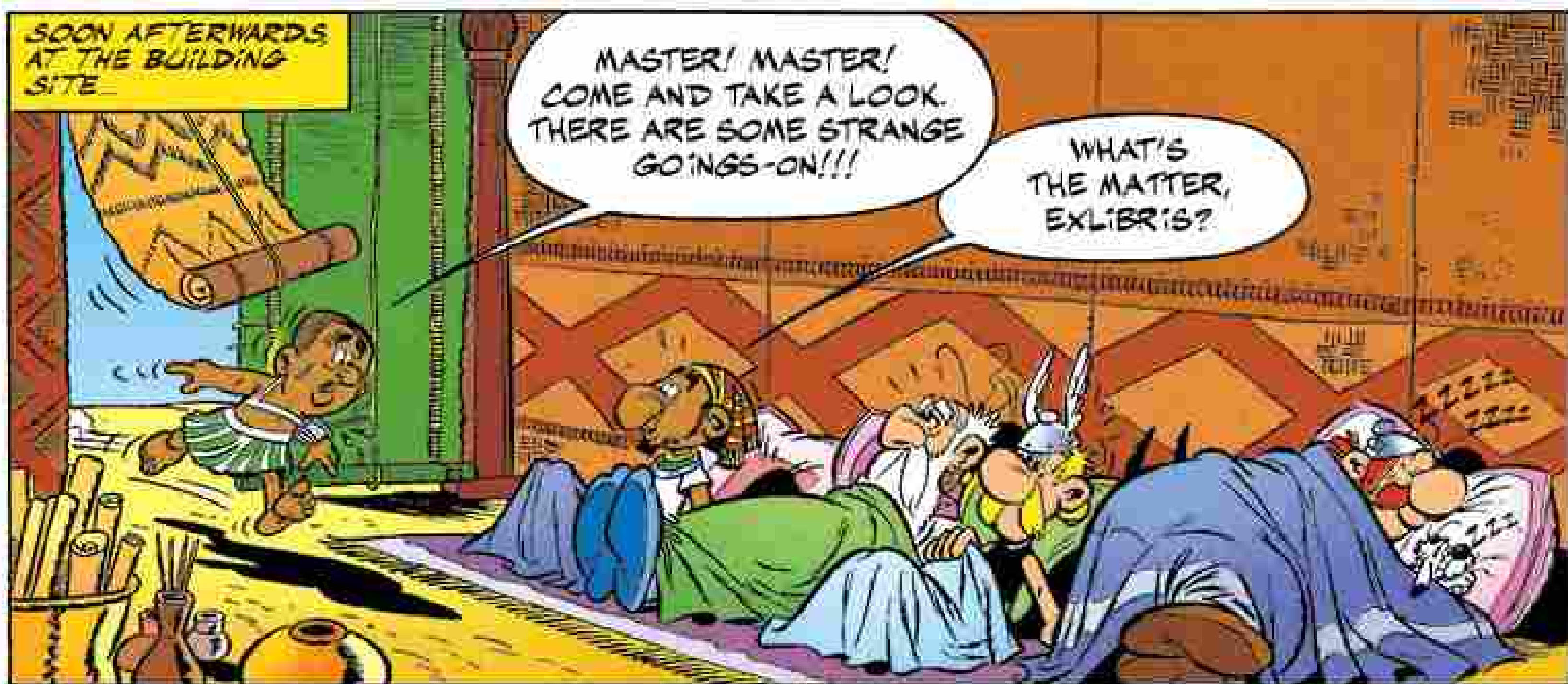
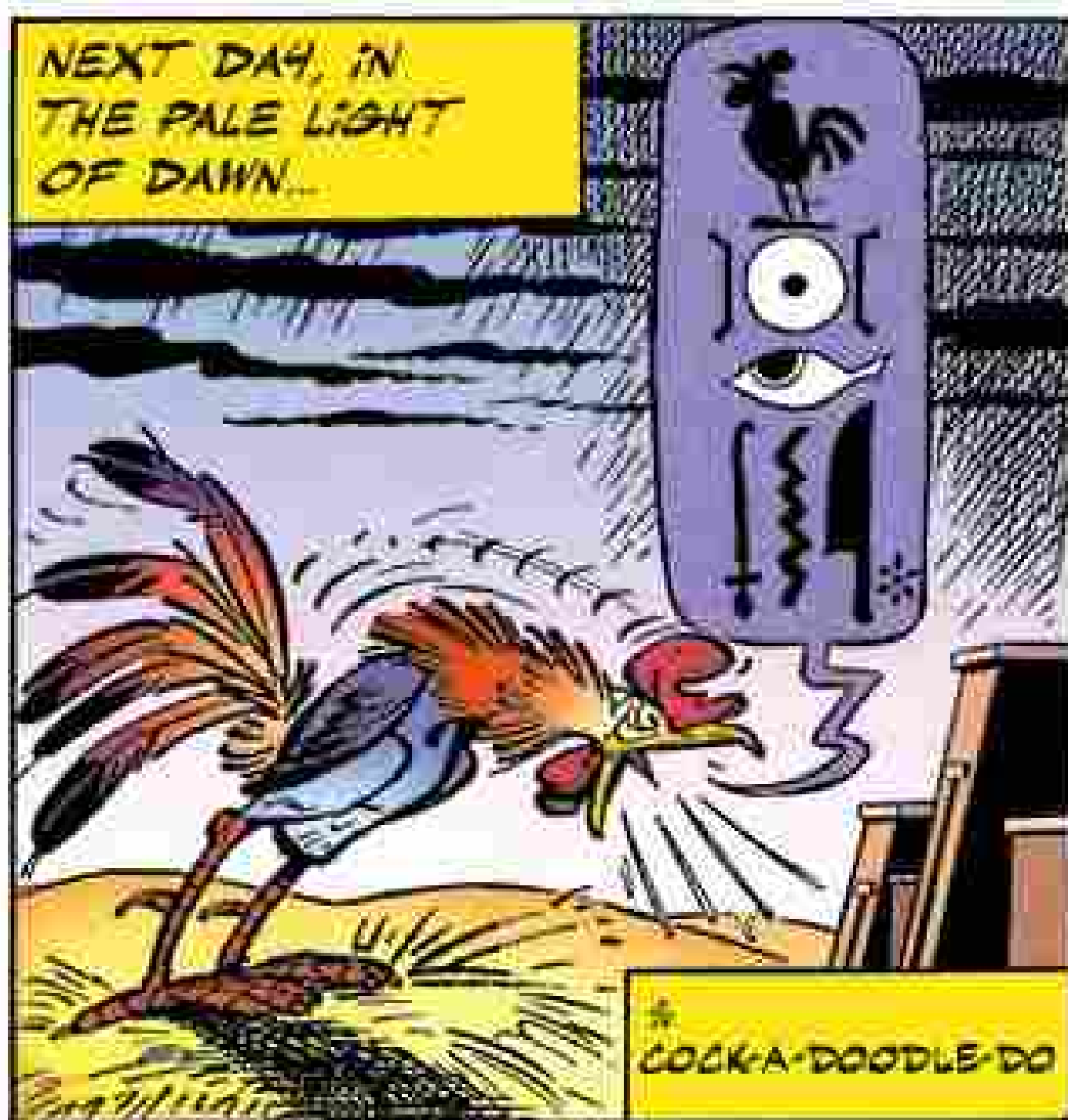




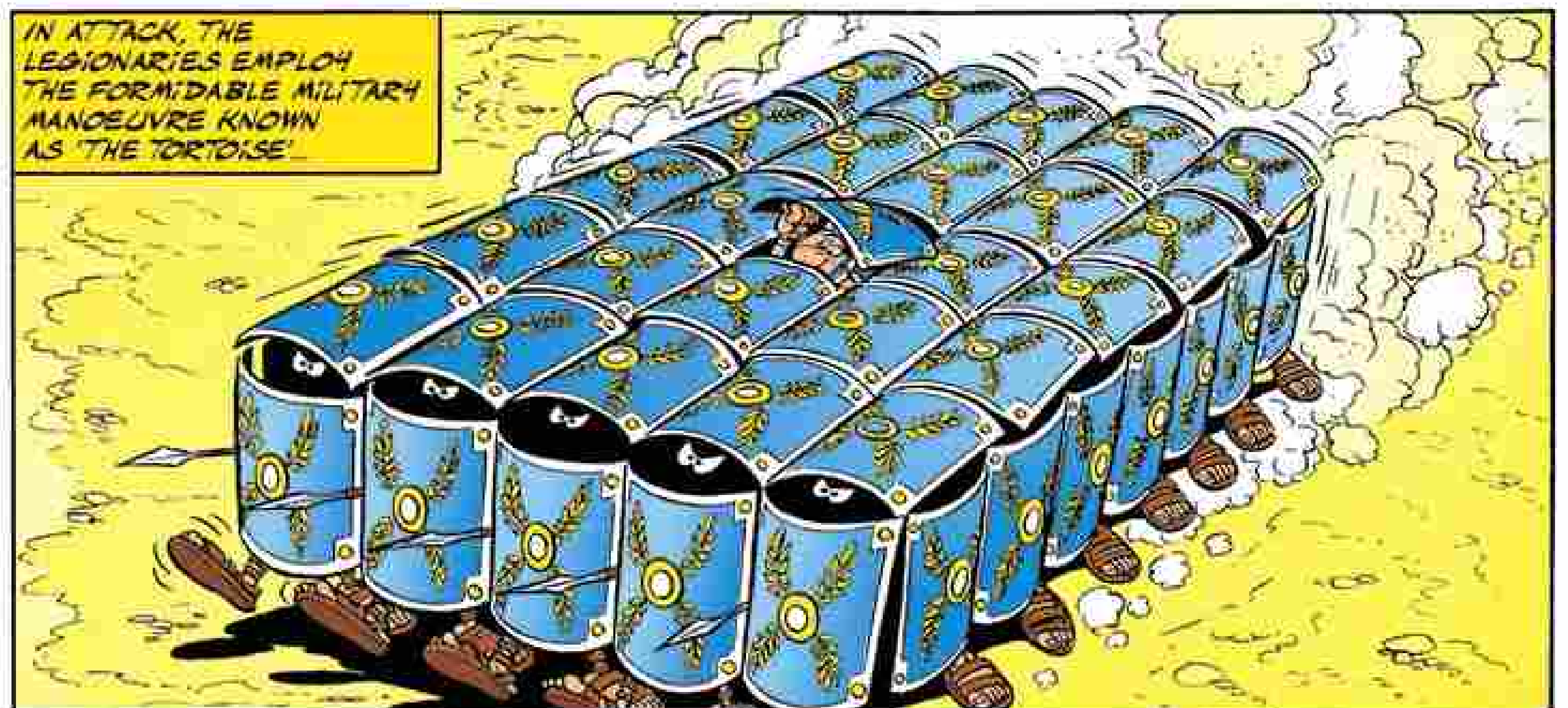
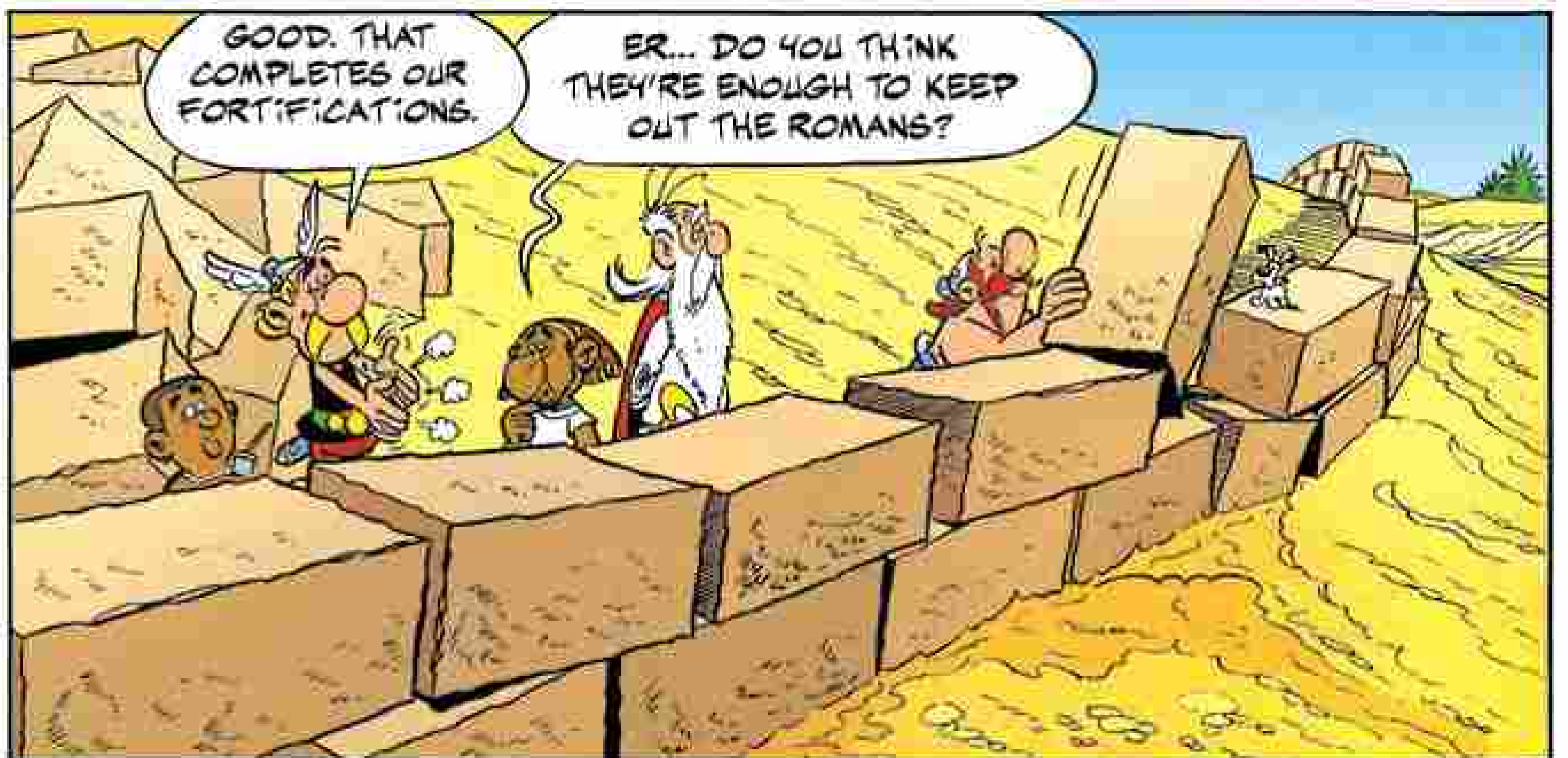


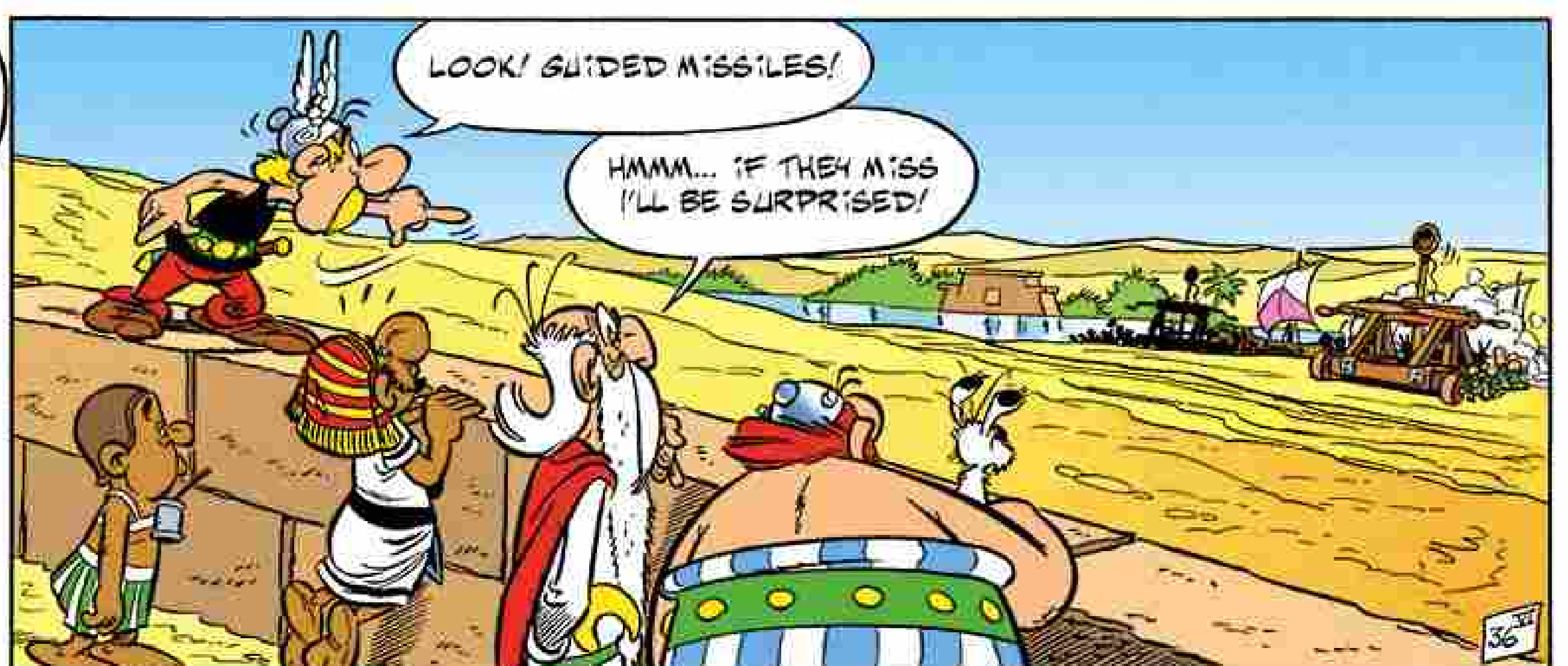
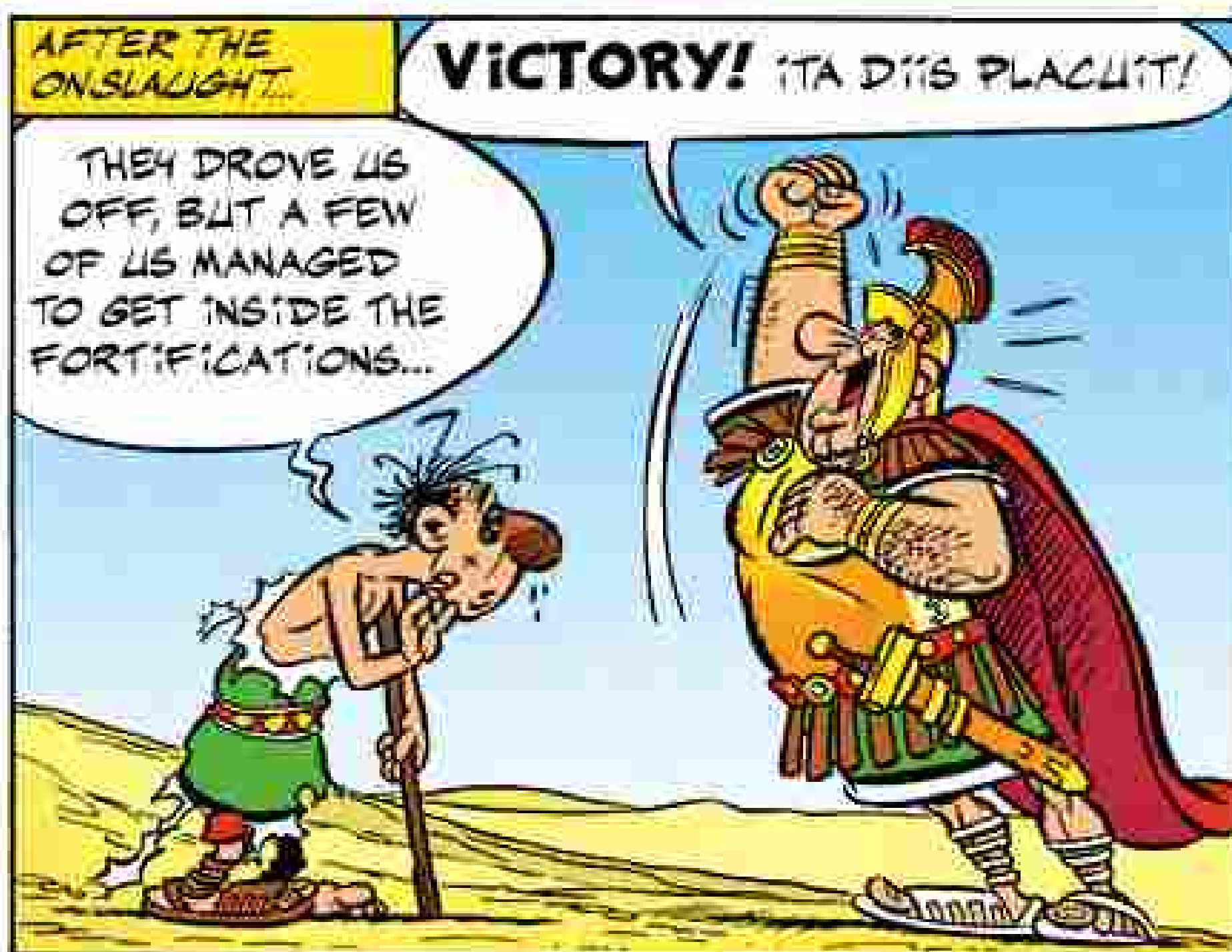


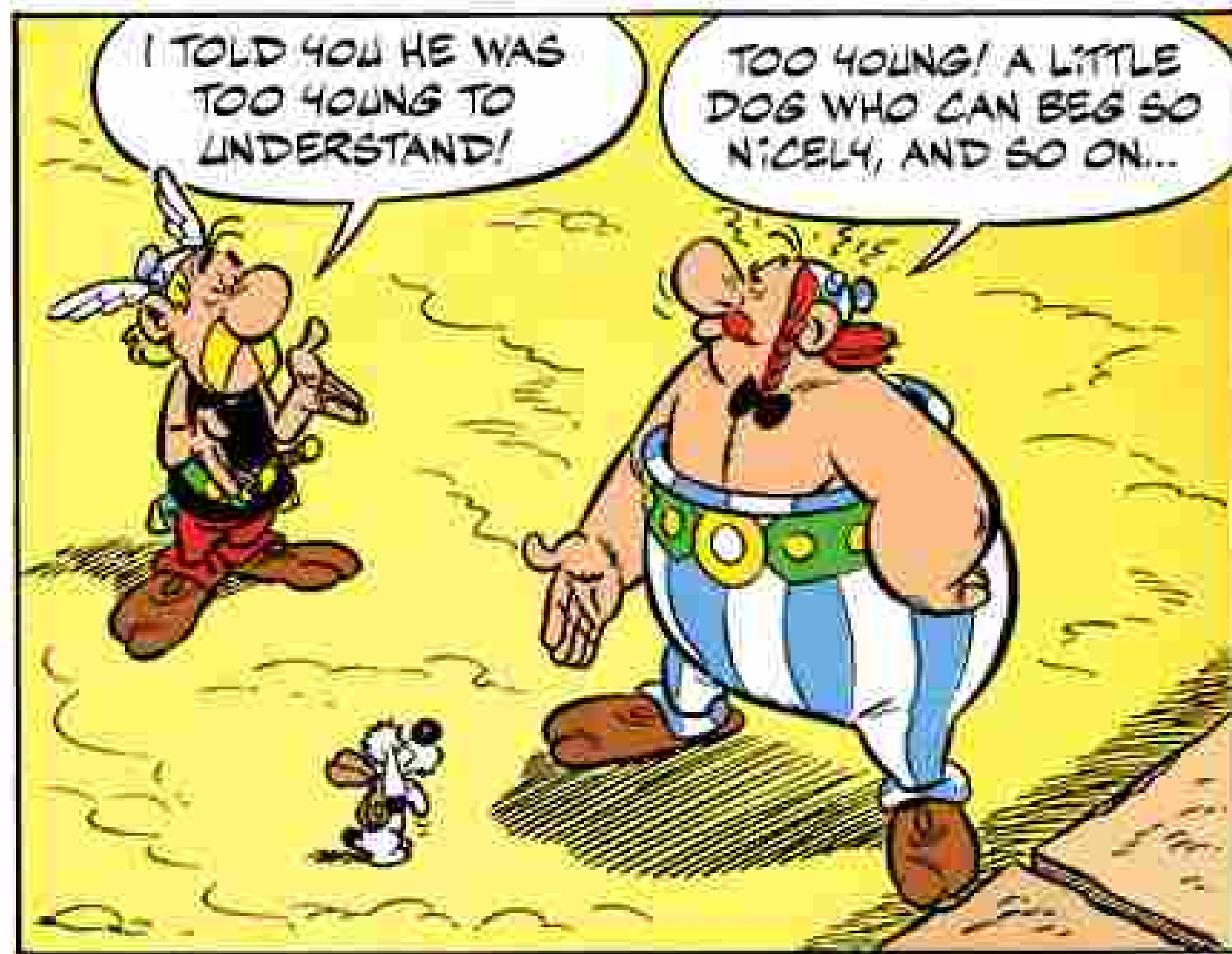
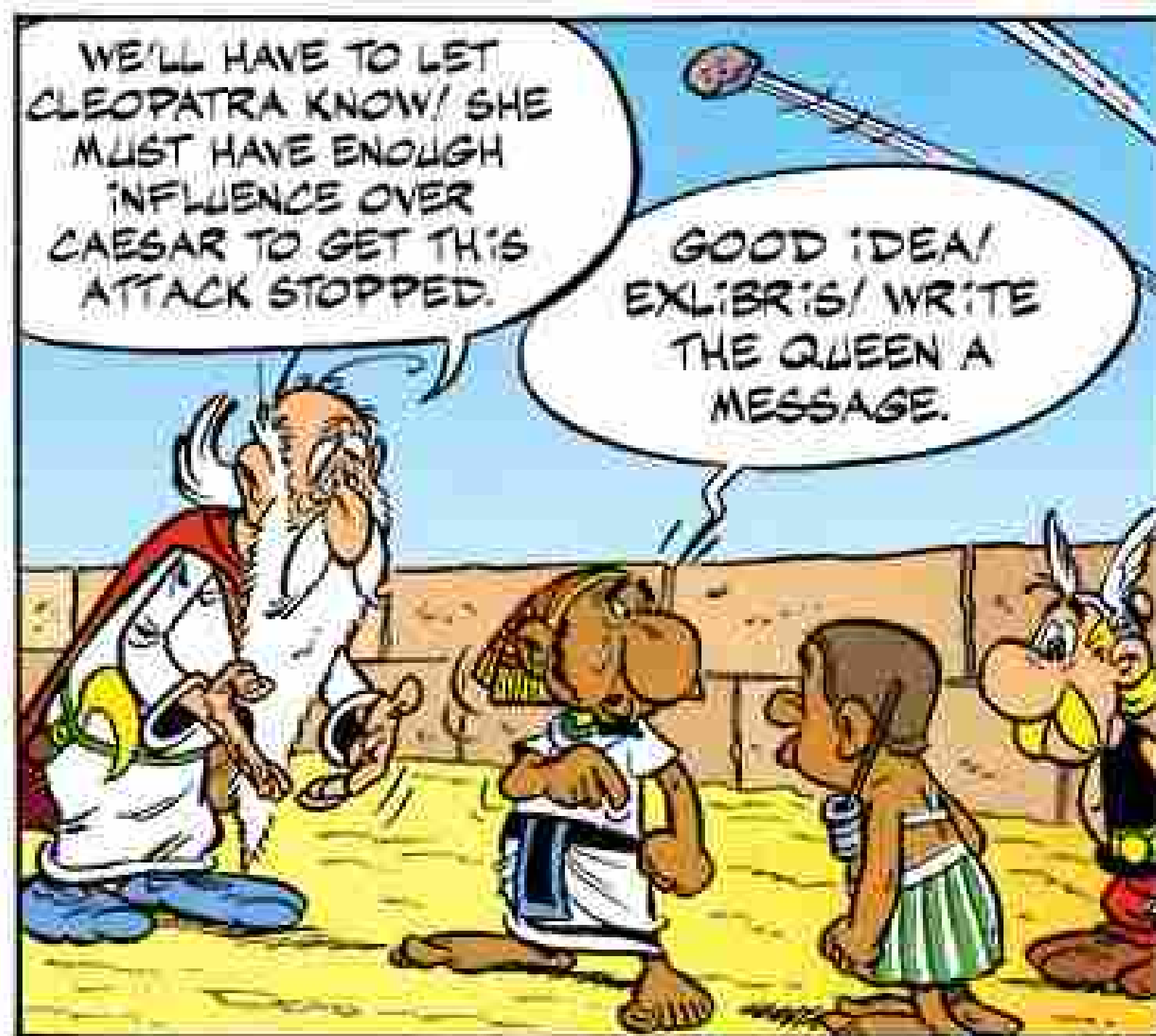
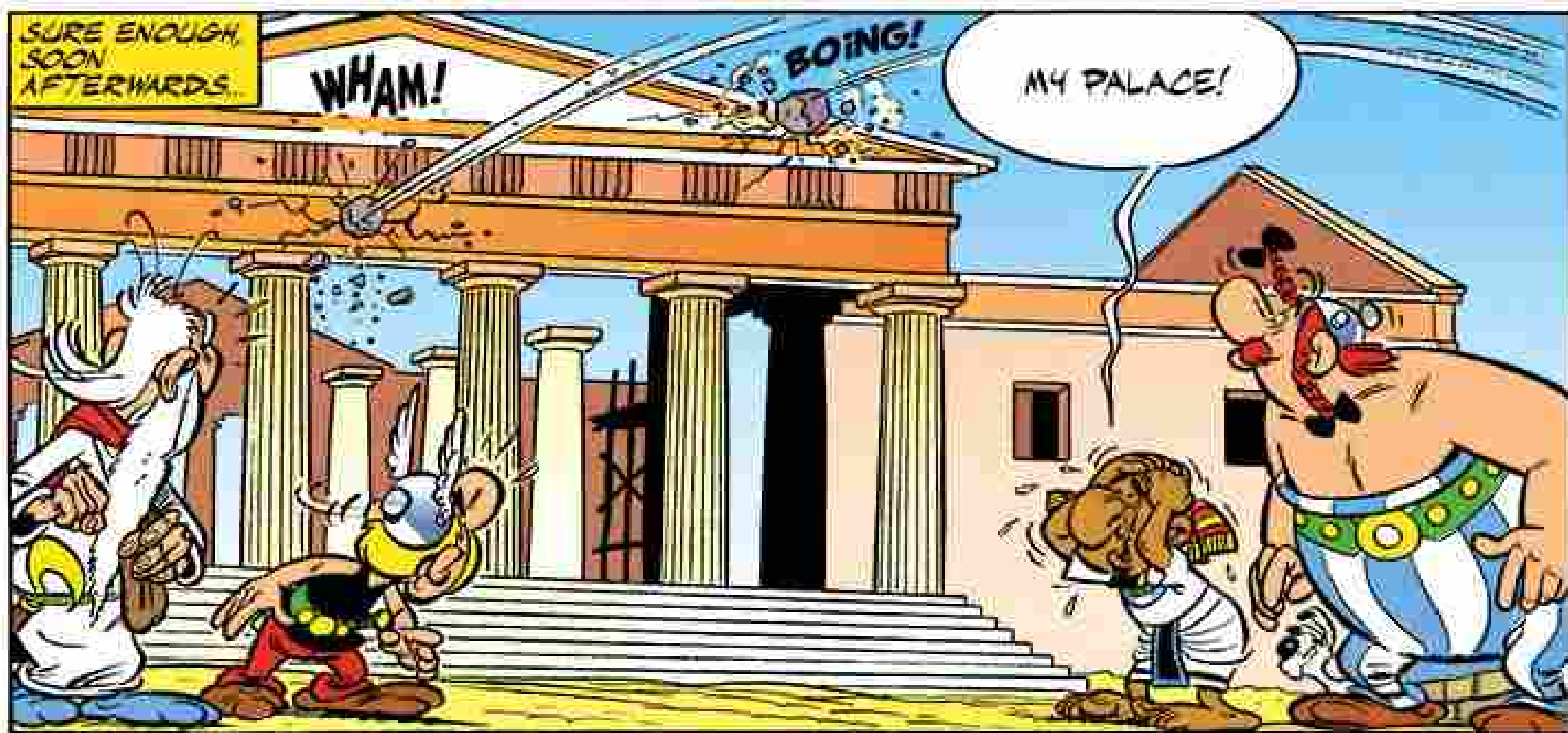


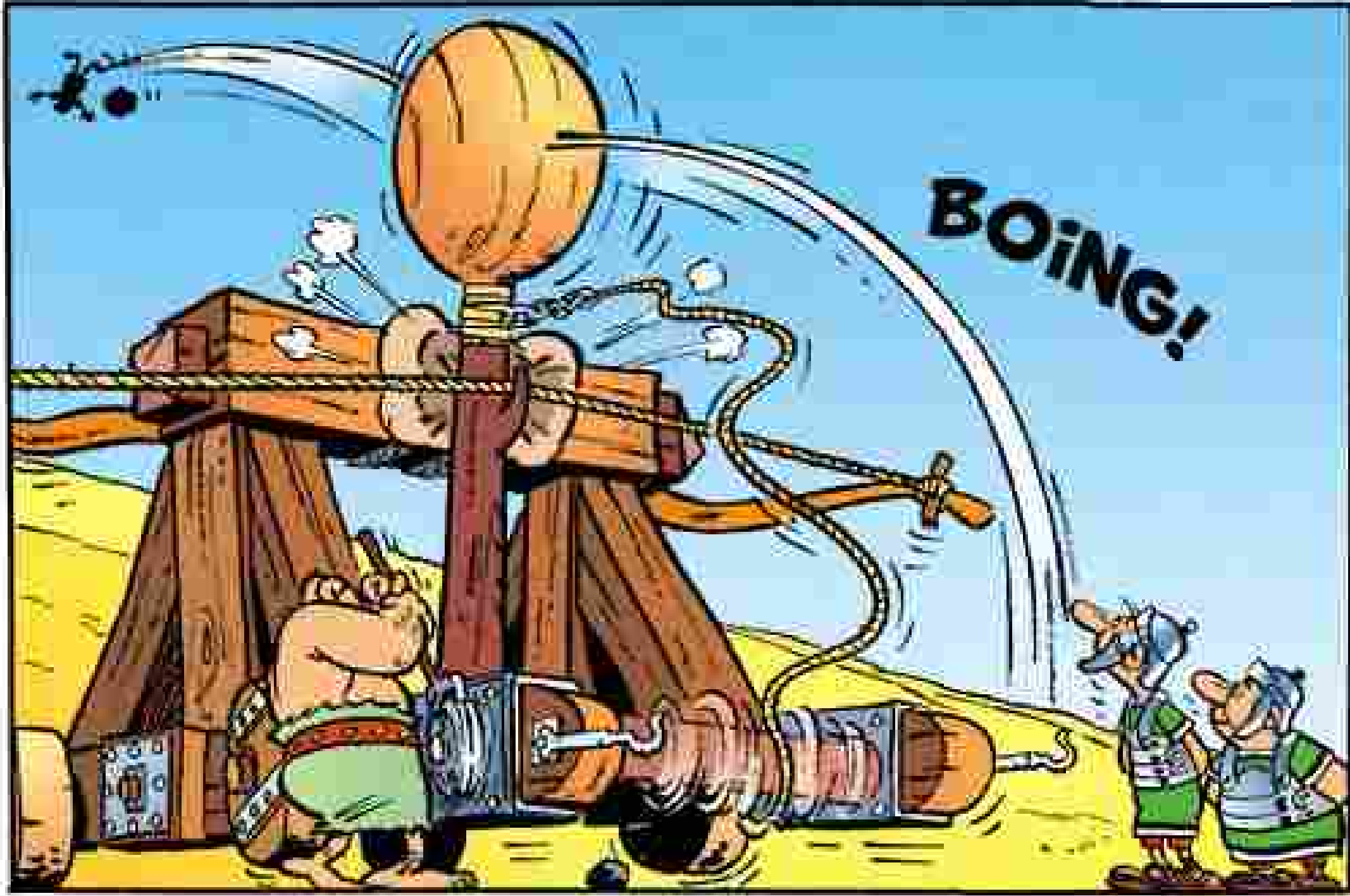
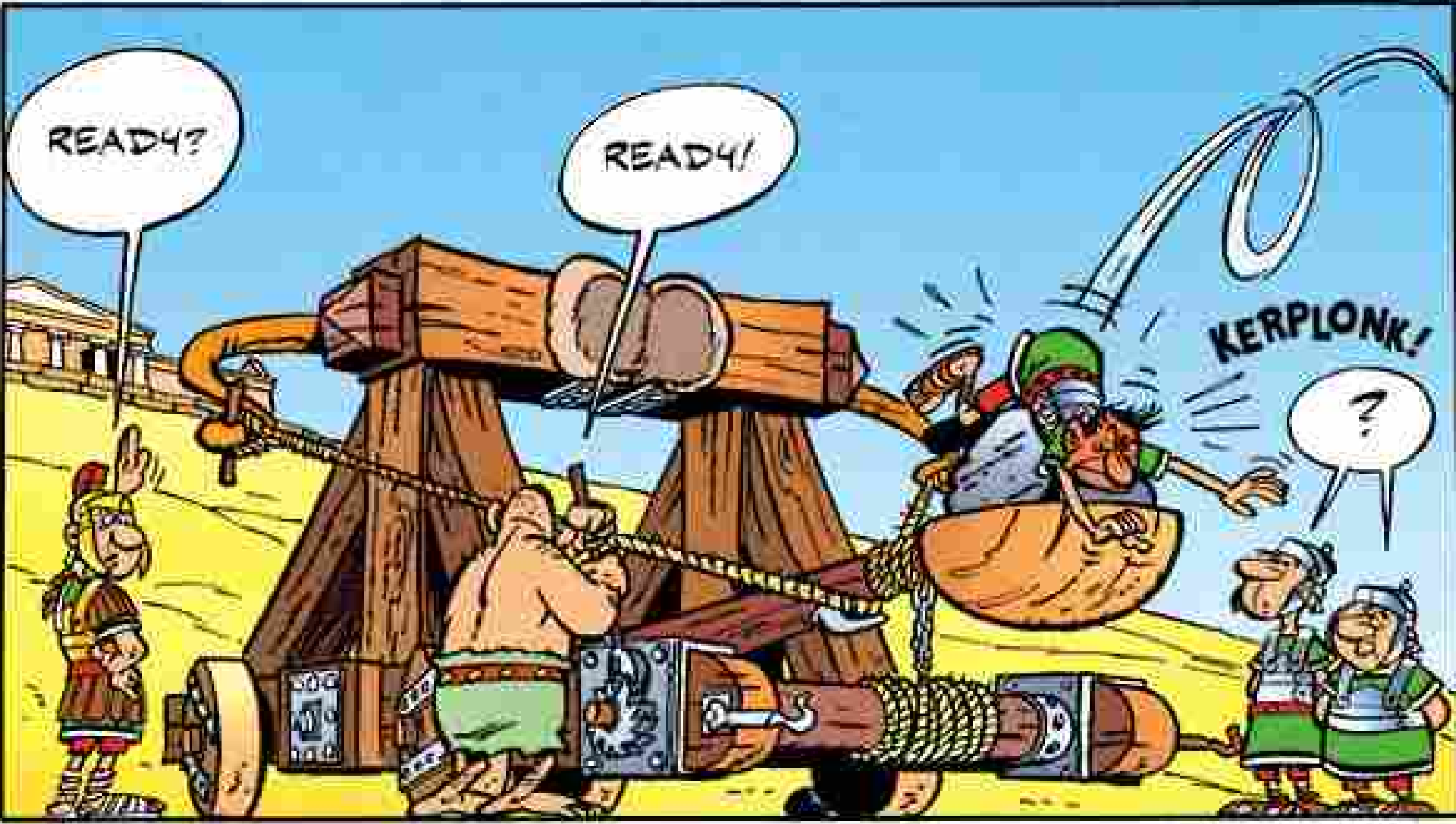
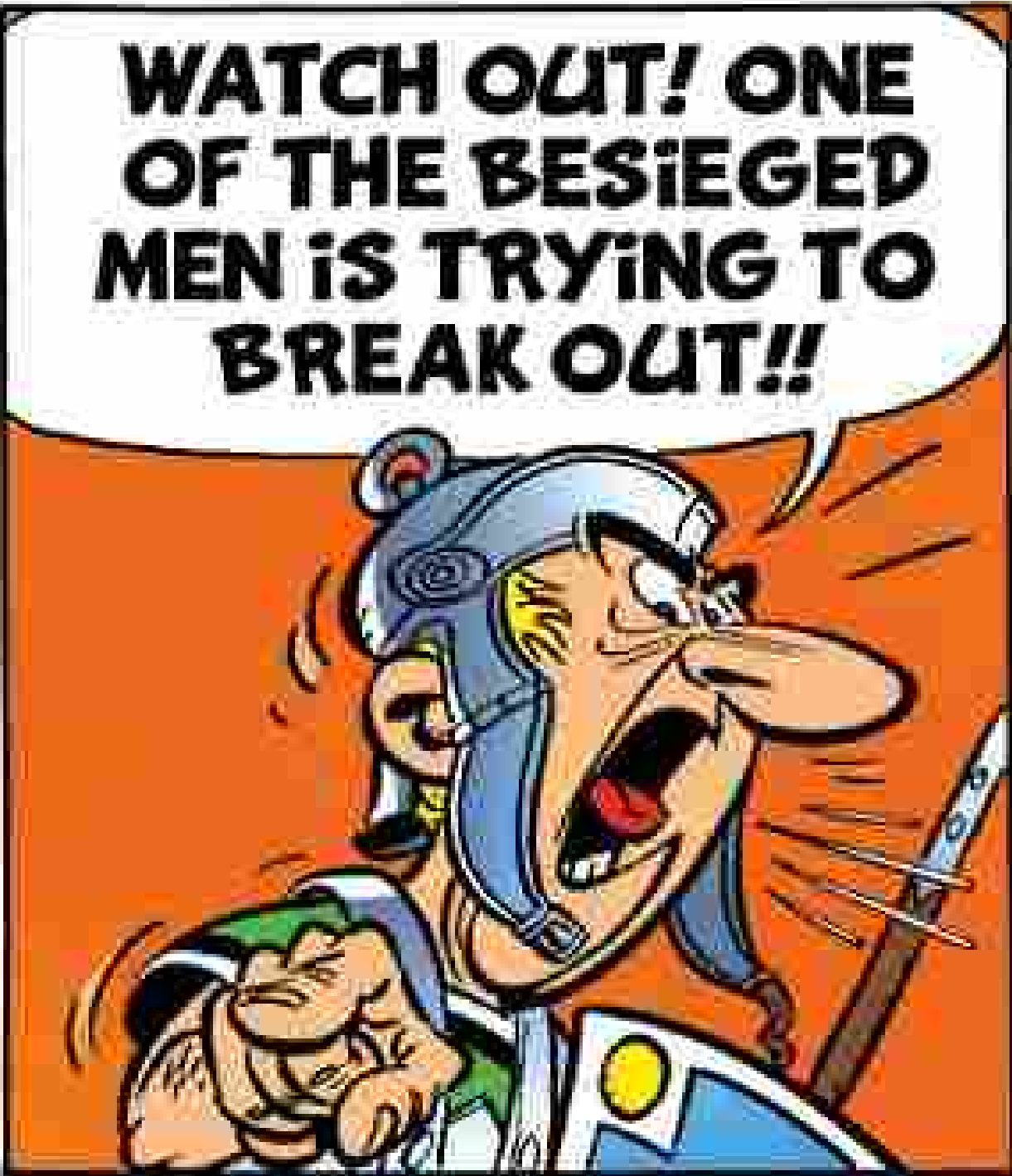


* ANCIENT GAULISH WAR-SONG

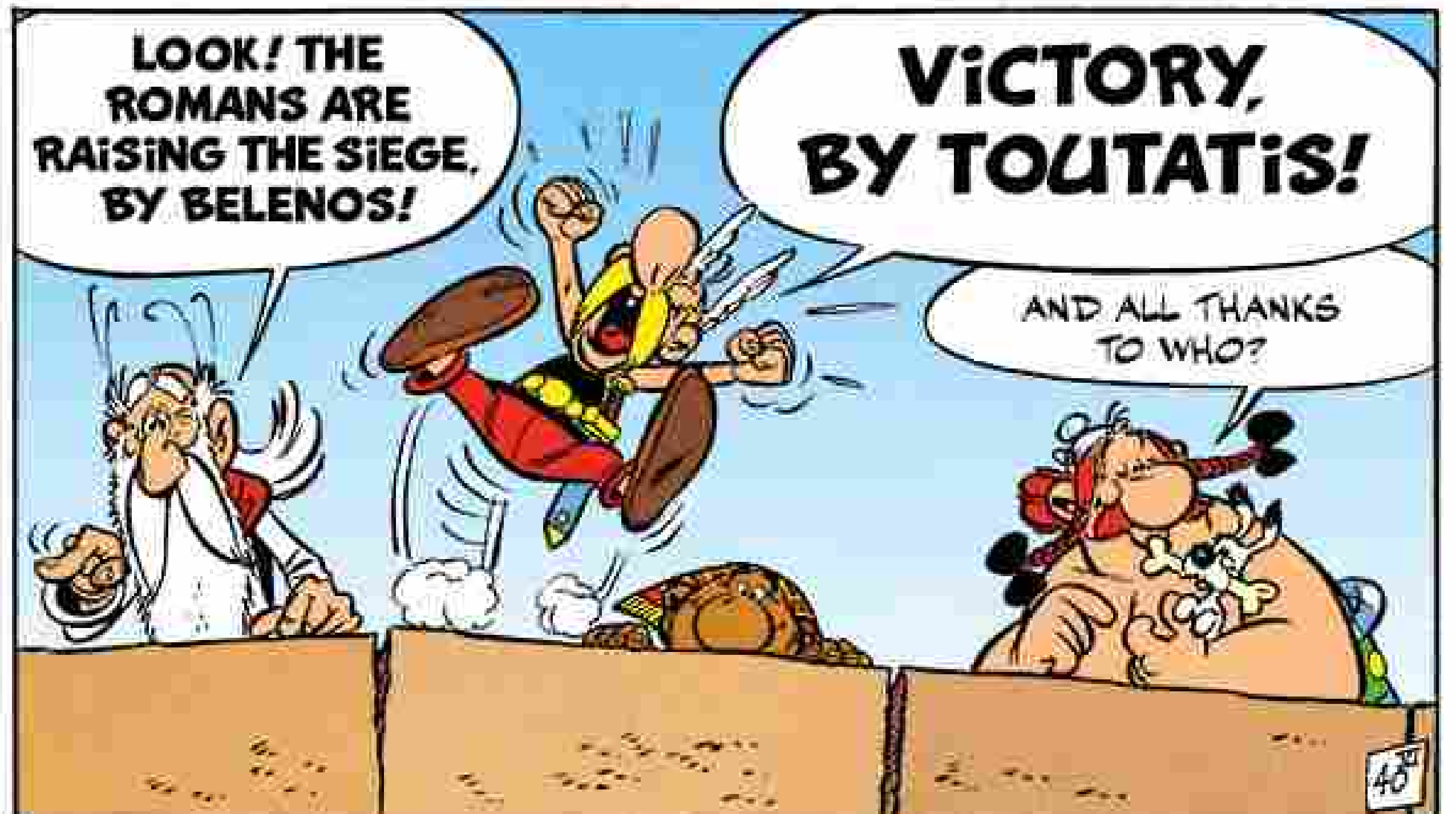
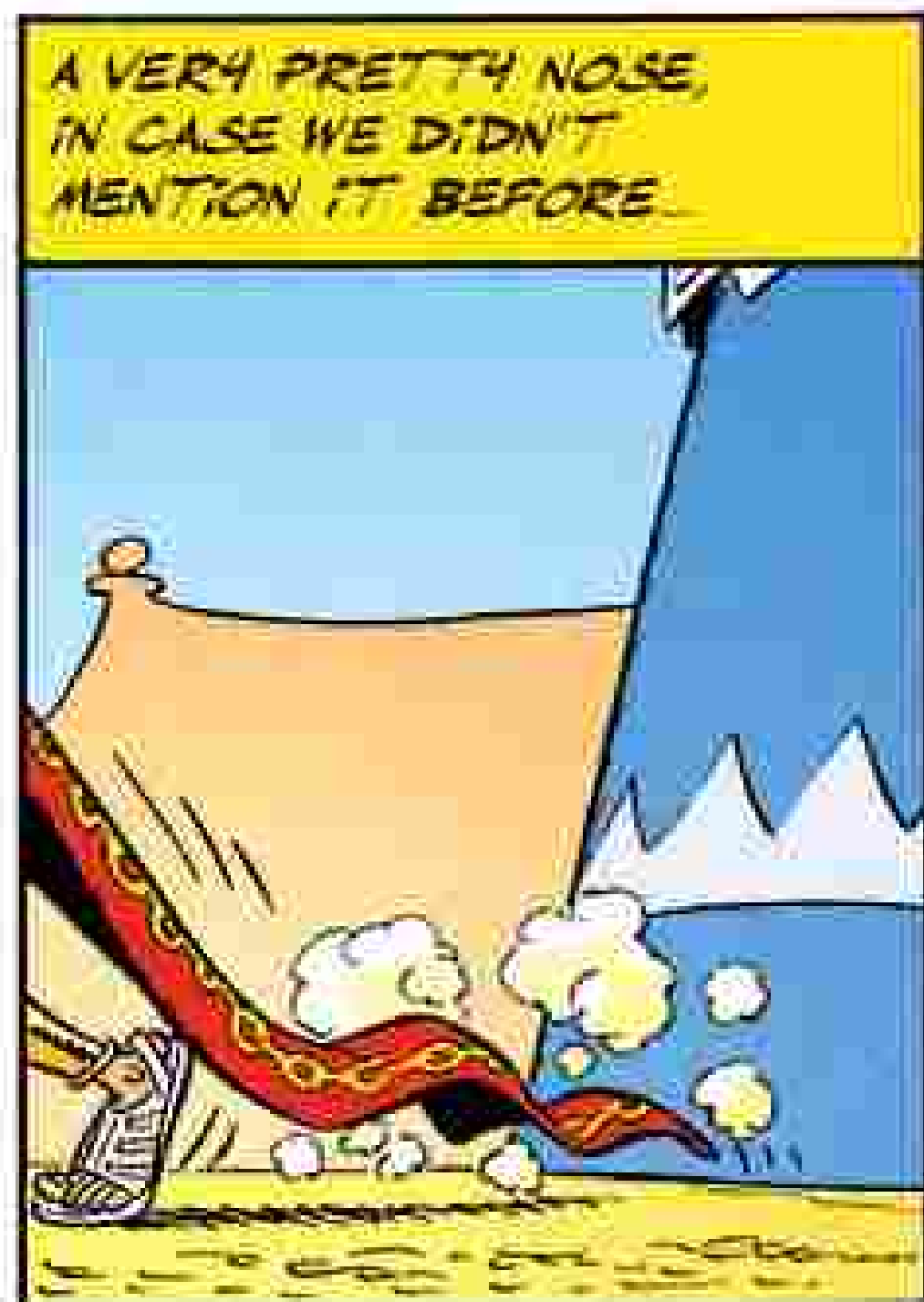
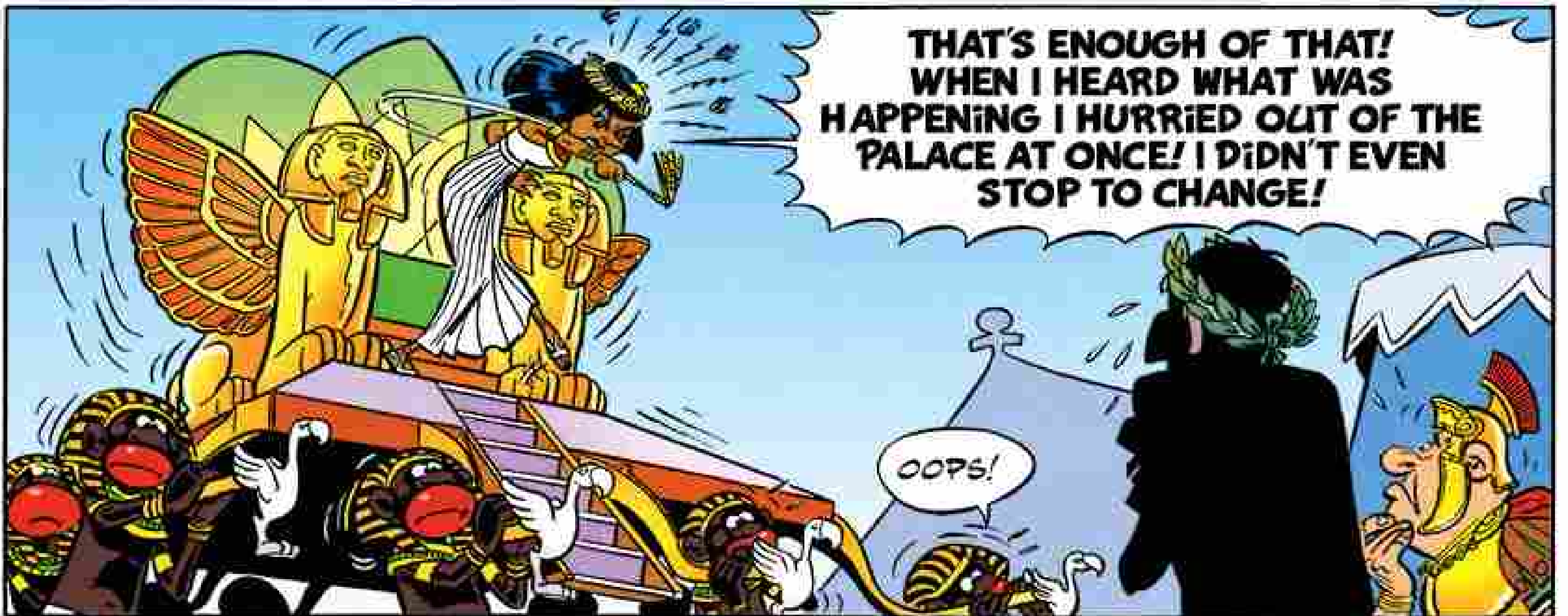
















AFTER A LUXURY CRUISE
LASTING SEVERAL WEEKS...



THEY AT
LAST SIGHT...



A SAIL! A SAIL!
ASTERIX, OBELIX
AND GETAFIX
ARE BACK!



THE GAULISH VILLAGE
WELCOMES HOME ITS HEROES
WITH ITS USUAL ENTHUSIASM
AND FEASTING...

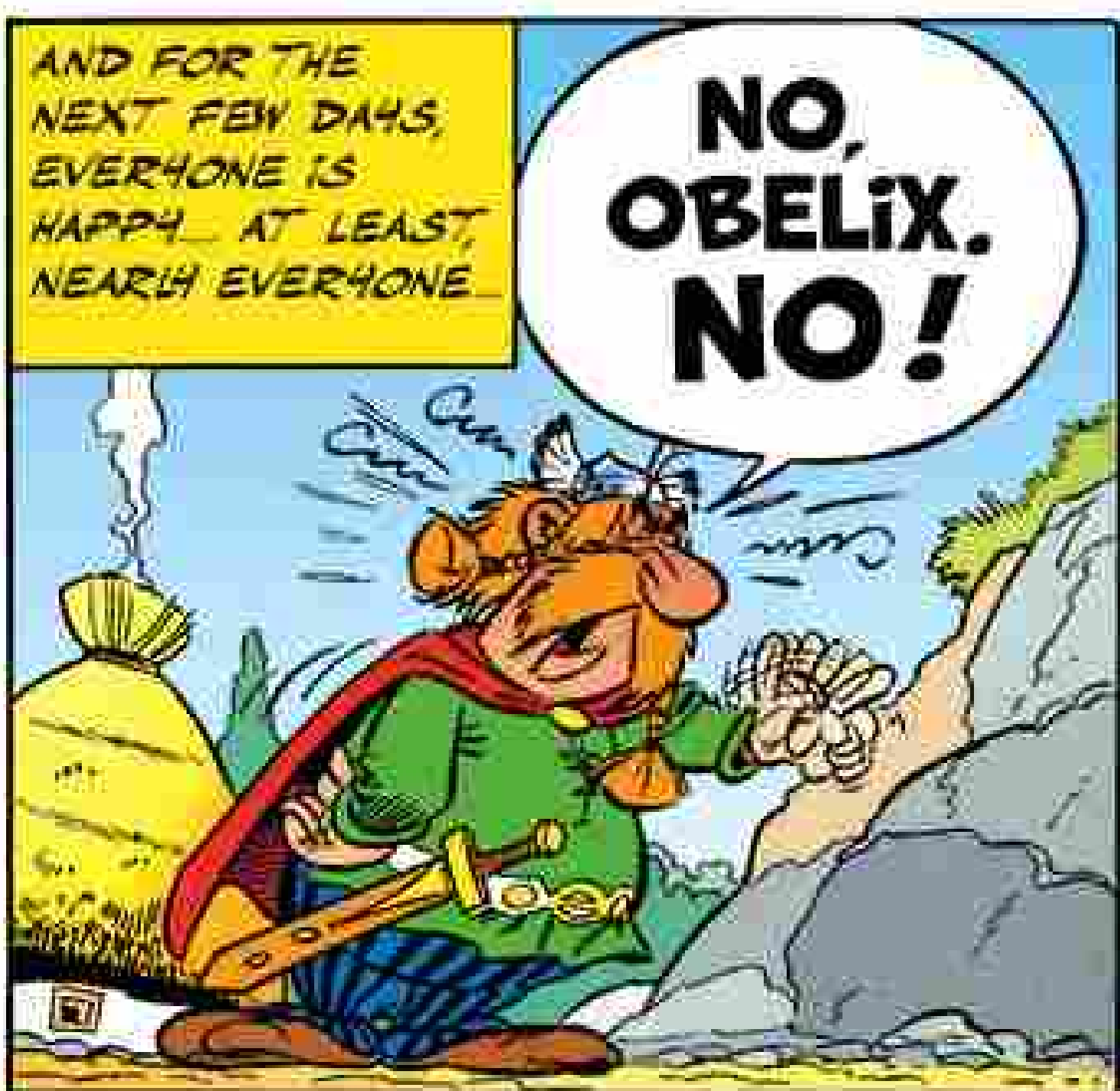


I WILL NOW
COMPOSE A
LITTLE SONG...



AND FOR THE
NEXT FEW DAYS,
EVERYONE IS
HAPPY... AT LEAST,
NEARLY EVERYONE

NO,
OBELIX.
NO!



I DON'T LIKE THE
DESIGN OF YOUR NEW
MENHIRS! LET'S KEEP
IT GAULISH!







I FEEL
A BIT WEAK,
GETAFIX ...

NO, OBELIX! YOU
ARE NOT HAVING ANY MAGIC
POTION! YOU KNOW VERY WELL
YOU FELL INTO THE CAULDRON
WHEN YOU WERE A BABY, AND
IT HAD A PERMANENT
EFFECT ON YOU!

How can
lovely Queen
Cleopatra show
Julius Caesar that
ancient Egypt is
still a great nation?

Her architect
Edifis recruits his
Gaulish friends to
help him build a
magnificent palace
within three months.

There are villainous
saboteurs to be outwitted,
but Asterix, Obelix and
Getafix still find time to
go sight-seeing - and leave
their mark on the Pyramids
and the Sphinx's nose.

